

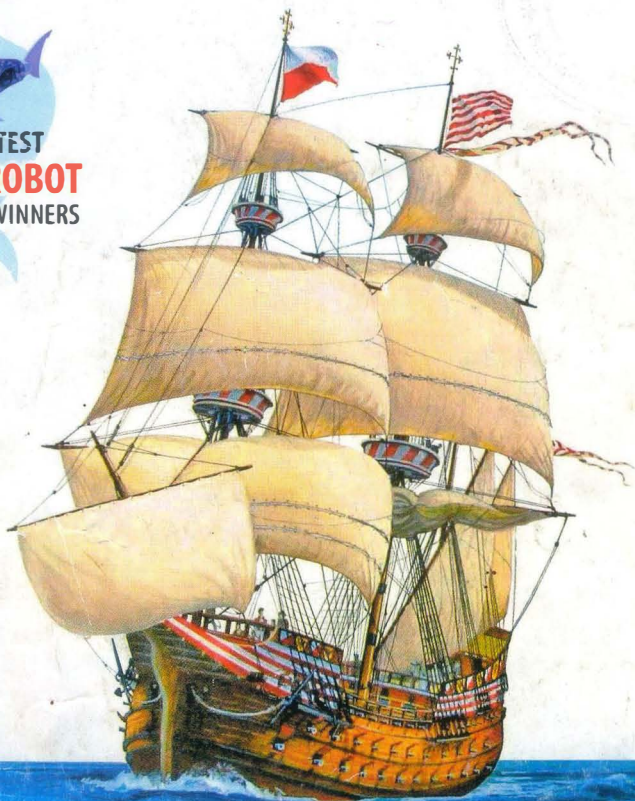
MANORAMA

TELL ME WHY

No:92



GK CONTEST
MICRO ROBOT
FOR LUCKY WINNERS



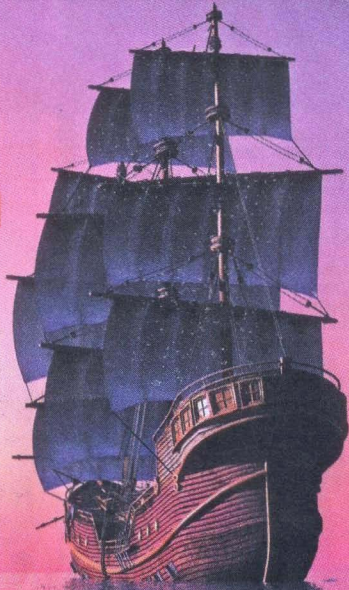
EXPLORATIONS

THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

MANORAMA
TELL ME WHY

May 2014 • Volume: 8 • No: 5

FROM THE HOUSE OF MAGIC POT, THE WEEK, MANORAMA YEARBOOK,
VANITHA & THE MALAYALA MANORAMA DAILY



CAPES OF GOOD HOPE

Man, by nature, is an explorer. He has been driven by the urge to explore new horizons ever since the known history began. The early travellers all set out on their journeys for a reason. The Egyptians, the Phoenicians and the Greeks travelled for trade just like the Europeans in later years.

With an eye on wealth, the European explorers succeeded in charting much of the rest of the globe. Every continent has been explored, from the tropical jungles to the icy poles. Their explorations shaped the world and its civilizations.

In this issue of 'Tell Me Why,' we tell you of some extraordinary explorations that defined the world we know today.

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EARLY EXPLORATIONS

Which was the first sea exploration?

Queen Hatshepsut, the great ruler of Egypt, launched the first sea exploration.

About three thousand five hundred years ago, 250 men of Ancient Egypt made history. In five large ships, they sailed to the Land of Punt at the southern end of the Red Sea. They discovered a nation of dark skinned humans who lived in raised huts set on stilts. The contact with the people of Punt proved to be fruitful. The Egyptians travelled there again to trade. They sailed from Punt with a cargo of myrrh trees, incense, ivory, ebony, gold, leopard skins and other luxuries. The Egyptians also took with them live baboons, pet dogs and other animals.

Curious Fact

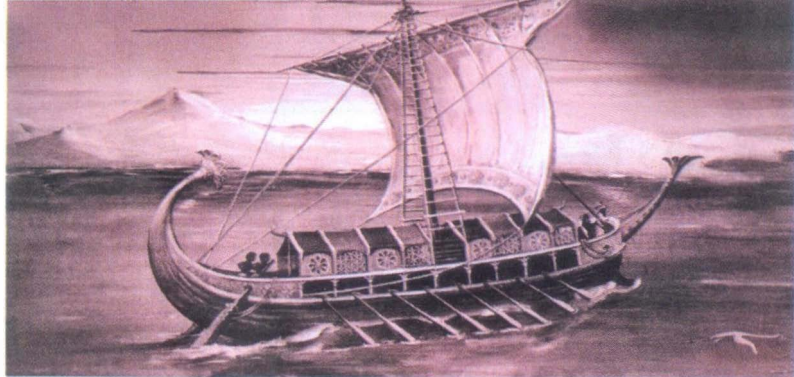


The Land of Punt

Aromatic plants lent their name to the land of Punt. Punt means 'Land of Incense'. Aromatic plants grew there in abundance. Today, this land is known as the Horn of Africa. The Ancient Egyptian expedition landed somewhere along the coast of present day Somalia.

Their fully laden ships sailed north up the Red Sea. Once again they crossed sea, rode the waters of the Nile, and reached home.





A Phoenician Ship

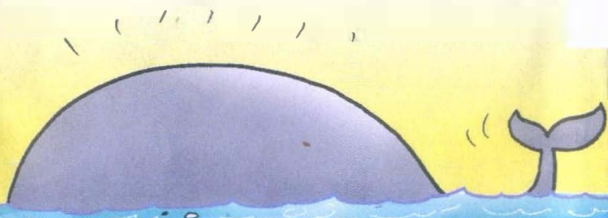
Why is it said the trades of the Phoenicians resulted in the early day explorations?

The Phoenicians were traders and travellers. They came from the land of Lebanon, which lies on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Phoenicians set up colonies to trade with the local people. Carthage in North Africa was a prominent Phoenician colony. Hanno, a trader, led a fleet of sixty ships out of Carthage to scout for new places to establish colonies, around 475 BC.

The Egyptian pharaoh, Necho II, hired a Phoenician crew to sail down the Red Sea, around Africa, and back through the Mediterranean Sea into Egypt, in 600 BC. The voyage took three years to complete.

We will set up a new colony in this shining land.



Why was Pytheas' journey to Thule a remarkable one?

Pytheas, the Greek merchant set sail from Massilia in 330 BC. He navigated the Mediterranean, then followed the Atlantic coastline north, and crossed the English Channel to Cornwall.

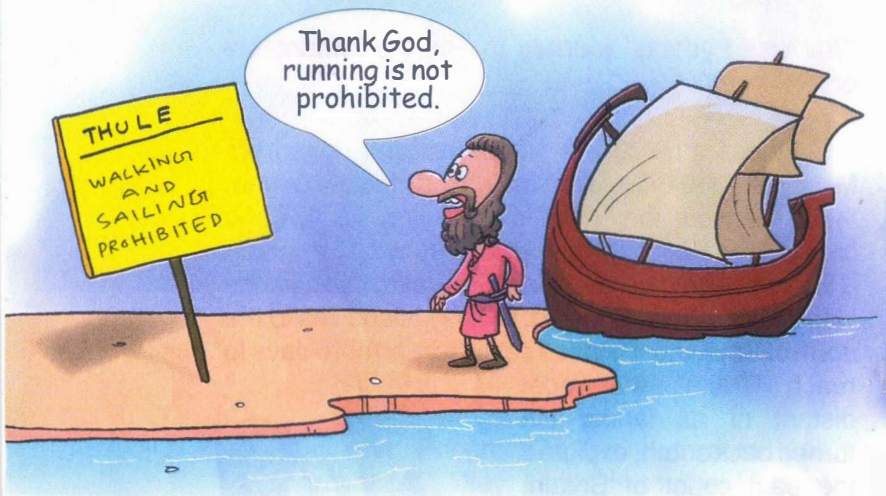
He journeyed up the Irish Sea, and through the Hebrides, to Orkney Island. Orkney Island lies to the north of Scotland. Pytheas sailed for six more days to reach 'Thule', the most distant of all lands. He turned back south, explored the east coast of Britain, and crossed the North Sea. He saw the Amber Islands which lie off the coast of Denmark.

Pytheas probably sailed up the River Rhine, and down the River Rhone, and crossed land to get from river to river. The brave explorer returned home to Massilia.

Pytheas was the first to describe the Aurora Borealis or the Northern Lights, the glowing green sky that sometimes occurs in the far north.



Statue of Pytheas



Where was the landscape of Thule situated?

The exact location of Thule remains a mystery to this day. Pytheas said that the sea in Thule was changed into a material 'on which it was neither possible to walk nor to sail'.

He was of course, describing ice. He also said that the Sun never sets over Thule, all of which indicate that Thule was near the Arctic Ocean.



Curious Fact



Compass Facts

The Chinese discovered the magnetic compass as early as 200 BC. Initially, only fortune tellers used it. Later on, people realized that it was also a reliable way to find the direction of North and South.



Silk Route

Where is the Silk Route located?

The Silk Route gets its name from the lucrative Chinese silk trade, a major reason for the connection of trade routes into an extensive transcontinental network. The Silk Route was the ancient link between the east and the west. A set of trails that led thousands of kilometres through Central Asia, the Silk Route was celebrated in history and literature.

The Silk Route ran through vast areas of desert. The oasis towns on the fringes of the desert were the lifeline of travellers along the Silk Route.

The Silk Route was the main link between the east and west from 500 BC to around AD 1650. News of China's wealth and glory reached Europe through the Silk Route, along with rare and precious objects like silk and porcelain. Most of the travellers along the Silk Route were traders who had set their sights on making fortunes.



Why is it said that the Vikings played an important role in the history of explorations?

The Vikings were seafaring warriors who rewrote the story of exploration. They came from

Don't panic, I am just a trader.



Scandinavia and travelled in long, open boats.

Viking ships were designed to travel at high speed. The largest ship could hold 100 sailors. The Vikings used their sailing skills to attack without warning and to make a quick getaway. Initially, they got away with as much as they could carry.

Later, they settled down and turned conquered areas into colonies.

The Vikings travelled mostly to do trade, but sometimes, they fell to looting. So, the Vikings were regarded as raiders rather than explorers by the rest of Europe.

STAR FACT



Ibn Battuta

Say the word 'explorer,' and the name of Ibn Battuta springs to the mind. One of the greatest explorers the world has seen, Ibn Battuta left his home in Tangiers at the young age of twenty. He travelled more

than 100,000 kilometres around the world. During his voyages, Battuta had incredible adventures. He left his footprints on Africa, India, Sumatra, and China. He wrote a book about his voyages. The book made Battuta famous.

Blue-tooth, The King

Blue-tooth, the modern day wireless technology, owes its name to the Viking king Harald Blue-tooth. Blue-tooth creates a safe and secure means of exchanging wireless data among several different devices.

According to legend, the Danish Viking king, was a peacemaker without equal. Such was his way with words and communication that he even succeeded in uniting Denmark and Norway.

Which was the new land explored by the Vikings?

The first Norse settlements sprung up in Ireland, Scotland and the Faroe Island. By AD 1870, Norsemen had settled in Iceland.

Erik the Red made a voyage to Greenland, a hundred years later. Greenland was then much warmer than it is now. In AD 1000, Leif Erikson, the Norse leader, reached at least as far as Newfoundland in Canada. Later, Thorfinn Karlsefni made a failed attempt to settle in the region, and the Norsemen gave up on this new world.



King John II

Why is fifteenth century considered as the 'Age of Exploration'?

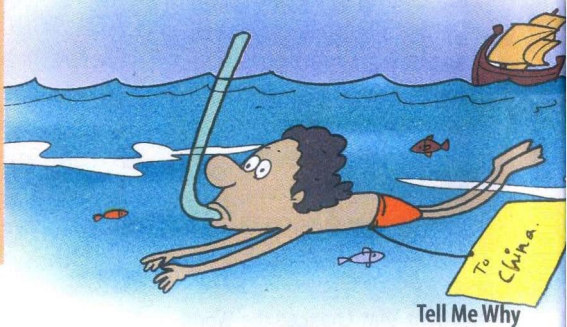
The wealth of fifteenth century China attracted the sailors of Europe. They hoped to make their fortunes by trading with China. So, they scouted for new sea routes to the Far East.

The rulers of Portugal including Henry the Navigator, and King John II extended patronage to these voyages. In the 1440s, Portuguese ships began to sail down the African coast. Caravels, a new kind of ship built by the Portuguese in the early 1400s, made it possible to journey around the world.

After 1492, explorers crossed the Atlantic. They could touch the shores of China by sailing westwards around the world. Most of the world was explored and mapped in the next three hundred years. The explorations during this period were many, and far reaching. This period came to be known as the 'Age of Exploration'.

Viking Ships

The Vikings had a ship for every need. Though the Vikings commanded several different kinds of ships, the basic blueprint was the same for all of them. Viking ships were known as Knorrs.



Tell Me Why

STAR FACT



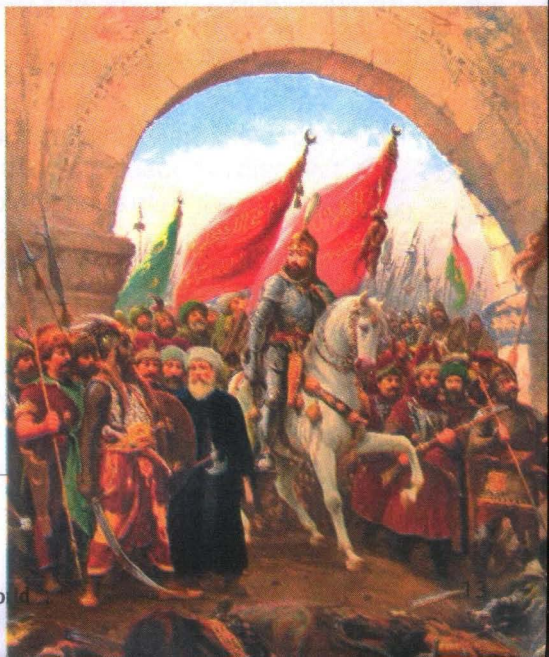
Marco Polo

Marco Polo was a trader from Venice who followed the Silk Route. At seventeen years of age, Marco Polo set out with his father and his uncle. They travelled halfway round the world to the court of Kublai Khan in 1275, four years after they began their journey.

Why did a new route to Asia become a necessity?

In 1453, the Silk Route that linked Europe to Asia was totally blocked, for the Ottoman Turks had seized control of Constantinople. The location of Constantinople was really vital. It was located right along the trade route between Europe and Asia. In other words, it was like a gateway to Asia for trade.

Therefore the Portuguese felt a pressing need to discover a sea route round Africa – a sea route that would lead them to the wealth of China and India.



The Conquest of Constantinople



CONTINENT OF GOOD HOPE

Cape of Good Hope

Why has Prince Henry the Navigator been given pride of place in the history of exploration?

My Lord, if you sponsor me I am ready to go on a voyage.



PPrince Henry the Navigator changed the course of Portuguese exploration. He did no exploring on his own, but he used his wealth to sponsor voyages.

This fifteenth century prince set up a school of navigation at Sagres, in south west Portugal. Fleets of ships set sail from Sagres, and explored the West African coastline. He encouraged Portuguese sailors to explore lands and oceans. Prince Henry is widely regarded as the man who did more for exploration than anyone else in history.

Curious Fact

Norse Navigation

The Norsemen found their bearings in the sea by the sun and the stars. They lined up a wooden bearing dial with the sun at noon. With the aid of this apparatus, they could find out which direction was south.

Diogo Cao in Africa

What is the connection between Diogo Cao and Africa?

Diogo Cao was a famous Portuguese explorer who lost his life in search of Africa.

In 1482, Diogo Cao set sail with high hopes, from Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. He sailed down the North African coast. Fort Elmina in Ghana was his first stop. Then he turned south, and reached the mouth of the River Congo.

Then he steered his ship south to Cape Santa Maria in Angola. In 1484, he succeeded in reaching the Cape Cross in Namibia. His life came to a sudden end at Cape Cross. The brave explorer was either shipwrecked, or lost at sea. It was a case of so near, yet so far for Diogo Cao, the explorer who nearly succeeded in discovering the coast-lines of Africa.



STAR FACT



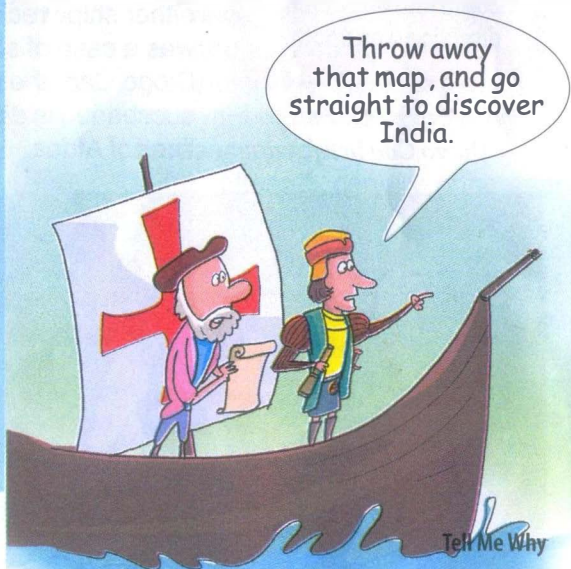
The Caravel

The caravel was a tough ship that could travel around the world. The Portuguese built the caravel in the early 1400s. It was a small, fast craft sailed by a crew of about 25. The hold of the ship was large enough to store supplies for a long voyage. The caravel carried the seafaring ambitions of the Portuguese to China and India.



What makes the exploration of the Cape of Good Hope a remarkable one?

The Europeans wanted to explore the wealth of India and other Asian countries.



By 1487, the Portuguese had mapped most of the West African coastline, but there appeared to be no route round it to India. One man, Bartolomeu Dias, proved this to be wrong.

In 1487, Dias sailed out of Lisbon with two caravels, and one supply ship. By the end of the year he had made it south of Cape Cross. After passing the Orange River, he headed in a southerly direction for thirteen days. As Dias sailed west on his voyage home, he caught his first sight of the Cape of Good Hope.

In 1488, he rounded the Cape of Good Hope at last. This exploration remains a milestone in history as it showed a sea route to India.



Pillar of Diogo Cao

Curious Fact



School of Navigation

The Navigation School at Sagres was the first of its kind. Would be explorers were schooled in map making, geography, and astronomy. The training proved to be fruitful. Portuguese captains and sailors, who passed from this school, succeeded in mapping new lands. Future expeditions used their experience to good effect. The school was founded in 1418.

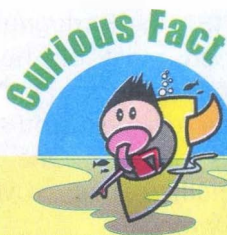
Where was the lost city of Timbuktu?

Timbuktu was a city shrouded in mystery. No European was allowed to set foot inside it. Timbuktu was once the capital of a wealthy, but little known desert kingdom.

The tall towers of Timbuktu, and its single storeyed houses were made out of earth and sun-dried brick. From Niger, the city could be reached on foot in a few hours. The city was completely dependent on Niger trade and trans-Sahara caravans controlled by nomadic Tuareg traders.

In 1828, Rene Caillie disguised himself as an Egyptian, and entered the city of Timbuktu. He was the first European to do so, and to return alive. Caillie won a ten thousand franc prize from the Paris Geographic Society for his unique achievement.

Timbuktu - A Painting



The Padrao

King Joao gave Diogo Cao, pillars known as padraos. Each 1.5 metre high limestone padrao was topped with a cross, and inscribed with the names of the king and the expedition commander. Cao placed these pillars in important places as landmarks to guide future explorers.





River Niger

What is the significance of Richard Lander in the history of the River Niger?

The strange course of the River Niger caught the fancy of several explorers. European explorers were puzzled by the manner in which it flowed away from the coast. The Niger takes birth in the highlands of Guinea, flows north east to Timbuktu, then turns to empty into the Gulf of Guinea.

Richard Lemon Lander and his brother John spent their lives in finding the route of the River Niger. Richard Lemon Lander proved beyond a shadow of doubt that the Niger flowed into the Gulf of Guinea by reaching its estuary.

Scott Mungo Park, Dixon Denham, Hugh Clapperton and Walter Oudney were the other prominent explorers, who followed the course of the River Niger.

Curious Fact

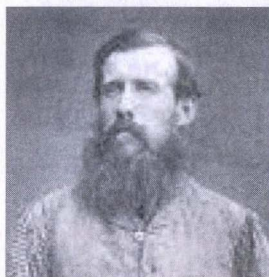


Star Explorer

Mungo Park, discovered that the River Niger flowed eastwards. He even went for a second expedition, but was unable to complete it.



James Bruce



John Speke

Why is the exploration of the source of the River Nile an important one?

Explorers from Europe raced to find the source of the Nile. James Bruce was among the first to undertake the quest for the source of the Nile.

In 1856, Richard Burton and John Speke took up the search. John Speke discovered Lake Victoria – the true source of the Nile.

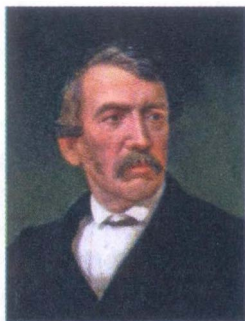
From Lake Victoria, the River Nile flows north through Sudan and Egypt, into the Mediterranean Sea. The exploration of the source of the Nile provided the much needed momentum for future explorations.

Why is David Livingstone remembered as a great man throughout Africa?

David Livingstone was an explorer with a heart of gold. His courageous fight against Arab-run slave trade put an end to that inhuman practice. His name is spoken of with gratitude, and he is remembered as a great man throughout Africa.

Born in 1813, into a poor family, David Livingstone rose to become a doctor. He travelled to Africa as a doctor and missionary. He was the first European to see Lake Ngami in Northern Botswana.

In 1851, he caught sight of the Zambezi, a river unheard of in the western world. Livingstone also discovered Lake Nyasa. The books he penned about his four great journeys brought Africa, the Dark Continent to European attention. Dr. David Livingstone passed away in 1873.

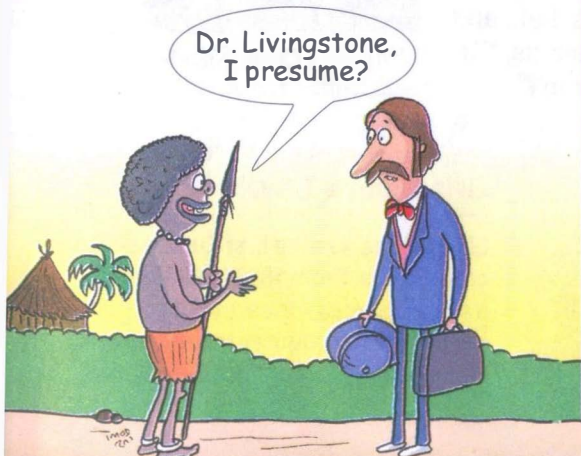


David Livingstone



Woman Explorer

Alexandrine Tinne was the only woman to search for the source of the Nile. She set out in 1862 with her mother and aunt, but failed to achieve her goal.

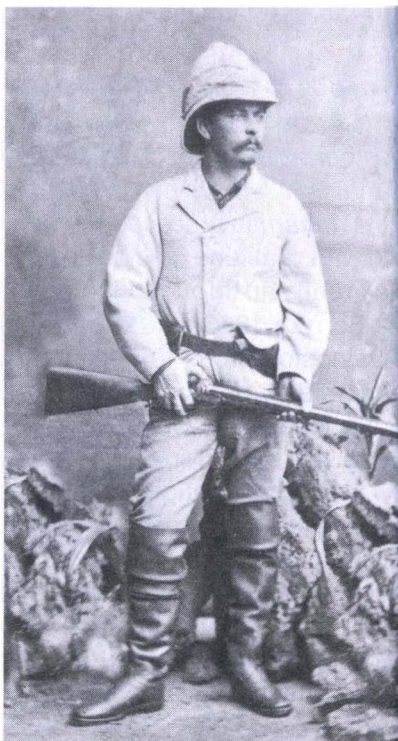


What is the significance of the statement, 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume'?

In the beginning of 1871, no one in the Western world knew whether Dr. David Livingstone was alive, or dead.

Livingstone, the most famous explorer of his time, had travelled in 1866 to Africa. He had set out to clear up the confusion regarding the source of the Nile. The New York Herald newspaper hired Henry Stanley to find Livingstone.

The memorable meeting of the pair took place at Ujiji on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Stanley was so overwhelmed that he took off his hat, and uttered the famous words, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"



Henry Stanley

STAR FACT



Livingstone's Travels

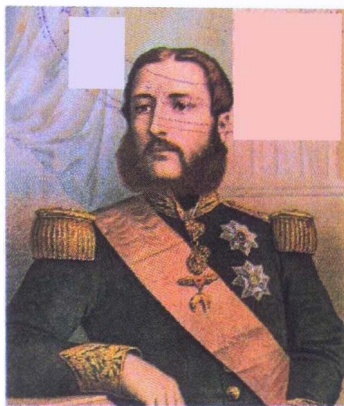
Livingstone was the first European to cross Africa. From 1853 to 1856 he travelled across Africa, mostly on foot. His remarkable journey made Livingstone famous throughout the world.

Why is it said that the exploration of Congo was highly beneficial for Henry Stanley?

King Leopold II of Belgium was willing to go to any lengths to colonize Congo. He had an overpowering desire to have an African colony under his thumb.

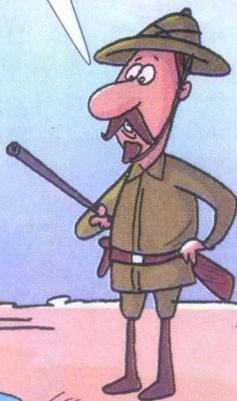
King Leopold II paid Henry Stanley handsomely to colonize Congo. Stanley colonized Congo in five years, beginning from 1879. He created the Congo Free State. Stanley negotiated with local chiefs, and explored either side of the river. He dealt harshly with his workers for which he was nicknamed 'Bula Matari' or 'Rock Breaker'.

Leopold gained complete control of the Congo Free State. However, his unacceptable treatment of the people compelled the Belgian government to take control of Congo in 1908. Congo became a free country in 1960.



King Leopold II

The Congo River
and Congo Land...
Superb!



Curious Fact



All Alone

Mary Kingsley's guides deserted her halfway through her attempt to conquer Mount Cameroon. She made the final ascent by herself.

Why is Mary Kingsley's name significant in the history of explorations?

In a world of male explorers Mary Kingsley was the first female who took the road less travelled. She regarded Africans and Europeans as equals.

Mary Kingsley had a deep understanding of African culture. She often traded with local tribes. She was the first to travel through much of Gabon as well as the first woman to climb Mount Cameroon. Her passion for exploration made her one of the leading explorers of West Africa.

STAR FACT



Victoria Falls

In 1855, Dr. Livingstone saw a majestic waterfall. He named it 'Victoria Falls' in honour of the Queen of England.

Mount Cameroon





*El Castillo- the
Mayan Pyramid*

Why is it said that the Mayan civilization was the predominant one in the pre-Columbian age?

The Mayan civilization developed in fits and starts – at different times, in different places. The civilization grew and flowered to become the greatest of the pre-Columbian civilizations. The Mayan empire extended across the Yucatan Peninsula in Southern Mexico. Large areas of present- day Belize and Guatemala were part of the empire.

The Mayan people began building cities and temples around 300 BC. These temples were surprisingly similar to the ziggurats of Ancient Babylon, and the pyramids of Ancient Egypt. However, archeologists are sure that the similarities are coincidental. No trans-Atlantic connection existed during ancient times.

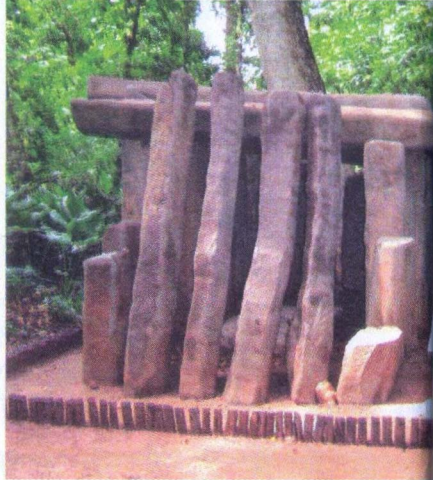
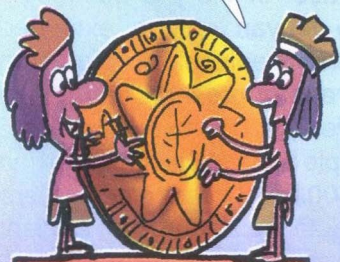
AMAZING



Eldorado

Eldorado is an imaginary city overflowing with gold. The legend of Eldorado was a persistent one among early settlers.

No space
to write 2012
and the coming
years.



Olmec's Tomb

What are the major contributions of the Mayan civilization?

The contributions of the Mayans were manifold. America's first writing system which was based on a series of picture symbols, was developed by the Mayans. Superb astronomers and mathematicians, the Mayans produced several highly accurate calendars.

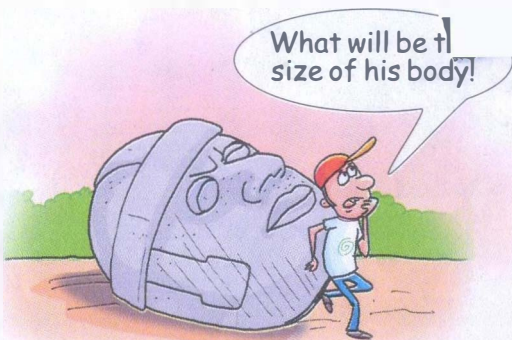
The Mayan Empire was made up of a number of city states. Each city had a population of about fifty thousand. Kings ruled these city-states.

The Mayan Empire began to decline by AD 800, and within 200 years, it had crumbled.

Which were the prominent civilizations in Mexico before the Age of exploration?

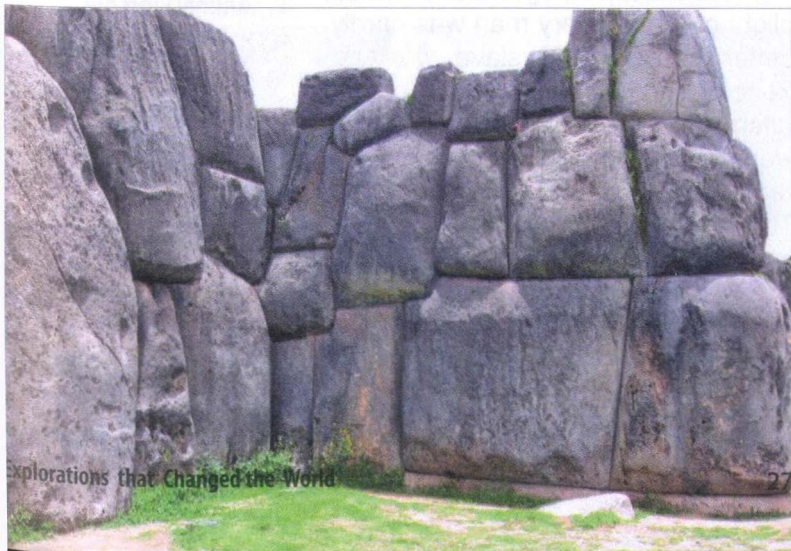
The first towns in Mexico were built by the Olmecs around 100 BC. A little later, the Zapotecs too constructed towns. The Olmecs and the Zapotecs had highly developed cultures, but they were dwarfed by the rise of the Mayan Empire in the East.

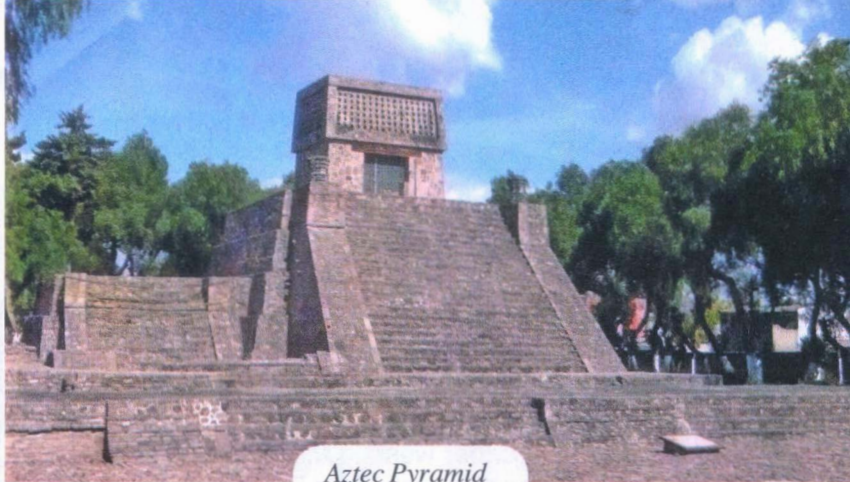
A Wall built by Incas



Further west, in the valley of Mexico, rose the great city of Teotihuacan. In AD 500, Teotihuacan boasted of a population of around 200,000. It was then the sixth largest city in the world.

Invading tribes from the north overran Central Mexico, around AD 900. The Toltecs, the most powerful of these tribes established a small empire ruled by priests.





Aztec Pyramid

What is the significance of the Aztecs in the history of Pre- Columbian America?

The Aztecs made many of the local gods their own. A priest king from the royal family ruled over the Aztecs.

Beneath him, the Aztec society was organized into privileged classes. The plight of the ordinary man was hardly better than that of slave workers. Tenochtitlan was the abode of the rulers. The provinces of the empire were required by law to deliver tribute regularly to their rulers in Tenochtitlan. The tribute included food, precious metals, and textiles. The Aztecs adopted many Mayan designs.

The Spanish founded Mexico City following their conquest. Many Aztec buildings were buried under the new city, and they remain so to this day.



Feathered Serpent

Animal worship was in vogue among the Aztecs. They worshipped many powerful animals in a human form.

Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent, was one of these Aztec Gods. He was worshipped as the father of the human race.

Which were the great civilizations predominant in South America before the arrival of Christopher Columbus?

I need some coffee.

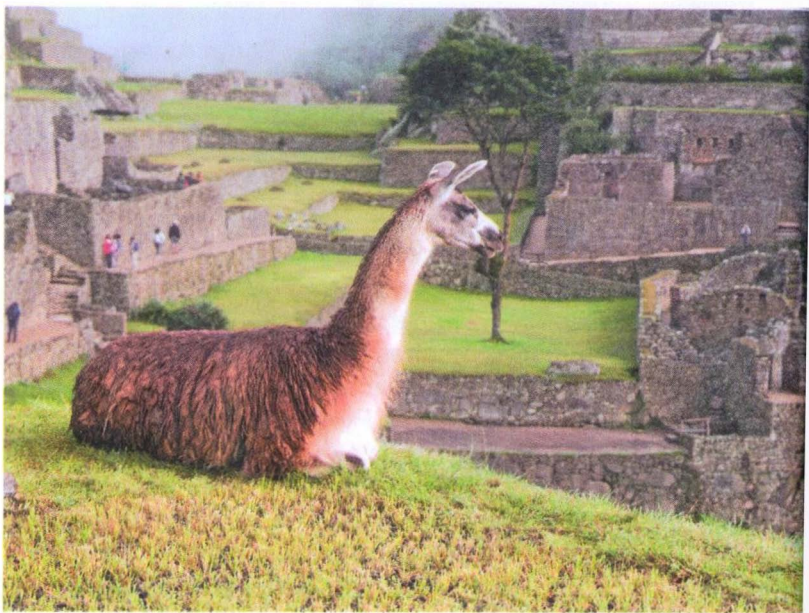


The Pyramid of Sun

South America has had its share of great civilizations; the Incas for instance. The first steps towards civilization were taken by the Chavin people. They became the first to build large temples, in 800 BC. Later, two separate empires came into being, the Moche and Nazca.

The 'Pyramid of the Sun' was constructed by the subjects of the Moche Empire. Later, these empires became part of the Wari Empire, an Empire which extended inland into the mountains. The people of these early empires were brilliant builders. They constructed large buildings, irrigation systems, temples and cities.





What makes the Incas, the most prominent among the South American civilizations?

The Incas were the most prominent among the South American civilizations. The Inca tribe entered Cuzco valley in Peru and settled there, around AD 1300.

The Sapa Inca was the king of the Incas. The word of the Sapa Inca was law. The Inca society had a rigid class structure. Officials were many, and they were headed by the Sapa Inca's relatives. A network

Machu Picchu

of long, paved roads that connected the mountain cities was the pride of the Incas. Troops rode over these roads to crush rebellions, at short notice. Good roads also paved the way for goods to be transported efficiently.

The Incas used the llama as a pack animal. Human porters were also employed to transport goods.

Why is Christopher Columbus regarded as a path breaking explorer?

Christopher Columbus set sail for China, but landed on American shores. In 1492, he sailed at the head of three ships and 120 men, with his sights firmly set on China.

Santa Maria, his biggest ship, was thirty metres long. Columbus sailed bravely across the Atlantic Ocean. His craft touched the shore of Bahamas, an island in America.

However, Columbus believed that he had reached the coast of Asia. He had no inkling that China was half a world away.

Christopher Columbus achieved the distinction of being the first person to return to Europe bearing news of the land that became known as America.



Christopher Columbus

Curious Fact



Machu Picchu

Mountain cities were the crowning glory of the Incas. Machu Picchu is the most famous of the mountain cities. It was built on terraces carved from the sides of a steep ridge. Temples were built on the flattened tops of these ridges. Machu

Picchu covered just over five square kilometres, but it was a small city by Inca standards. Machu Picchu lies in present day Peru.

STAR FACT



New World Fruit

Columbus discovered a number of exotic fruits in America. Many food plants that are now familiar round the world originally came from America. Maize or corn, cassava or tapioca, potatoes, tomatoes, red and green peppers, pineapples and sunflower seeds originally grew only in America. America also gave us the tobacco plant.

Why did Columbus name the new land 'West Indies'?

Christopher Columbus, the famous explorer, committed a comedy of errors. He landed on an island in America, but he mistook it for the west coast of India. Therefore, he named it the West Indies.

Christopher Columbus harboured the dream of sailing west to reach Cipangu. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to fund his dream in 1491. Columbus set sail with three ships called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

On the night of 12th October, the lookout on Santa Maria sighted land. Columbus and his crew landed on the island. They named it Santa Maria, and claimed it for Spain. Columbus believed that he had landed on the west coast of India.





Why did the land discovered by Columbus come to be known as 'The new world'?

Columbus in America

Not only had the Europeans never set foot in America, they did not even suspect that such a continent existed. Therefore, they called it 'The New World'.

Before the voyages of Columbus, Europeans believed that there were only three continents, and only one ocean.

The 'discovery' of the Americas by Christopher Columbus made Europeans realise that there were two more continents – North America and South America. Later, they would come to know about the Pacific Ocean.

Today, we know there are seven continents and four oceans.





*The Return of
Columbus - A
Painting*

Who were the Native Americans at the time of Columbus' arrival?

A group of happy, smiling natives greeted Columbus and his crew when they first set foot in the New World. The natives were Arawaks.

Many tribes and numerous natives populated the New World. One such tribe was the 'Caribs'. The words 'Caribbean Sea' and 'cannibal' are derived from the name of this tribe. The Caribs were left largely undisturbed by the Europeans for another two hundred years.

However, the Apaches were not so lucky. They were natives who lived in the southernmost tip of North America. The Spaniards ran into the Apaches as they pushed northwards. The Apaches and the Europeans remained bitter foes for the next 350 years.

I want
spices
only!



Why is the voyage of John Cabot regarded as a significant one in the history of explorations?

The price of spices played a role in bringing fame to John Cabot. In the fifteenth century, spices arrived in England by a roundabout route that ran through the Middle East. Therefore, spices were very expensive indeed.

Merchants were keen to find a shorter route to the East. John Cabot, an Italian sailor, was aware that the shortest way to reach the East would be to sail across the Atlantic at northerly latitude.

In 1497, he set off from Bristol on board the vessel *Matthew*. He landed in North America, either on the island of Newfoundland, or further south in Nova Scotia. Both Newfoundland and Nova Scotia lie in present day Canada. Thus, John Cabot succeeded in attaining a place of honour in the history of Canada.



John Cabot

STAR FACT



Father of Brazil

Pedro Cabral (1467-1520) 'accidentally discovered' Brazil in April, 1500. Whether he was the first European to stumble upon Brazil cannot be said with any certainty. Whatever be the case, Brazilians regard Cabral as the discoverer of their country.



Who explored South America after Columbus' famous voyage?

Four daring Europeans sailed to South America in Columbus' wake.

Though the winner of this race of sorts remains unclear, most historians give

Cabral sights Brazil for the first time.

the honour to Pedro Cabral, who sighted Brazil on April 22nd, 1500. Though Vicente Pinzon probably reached the north east of Brazil in January, 1500.

Alonso de Ojeda explored the Caribbean coast, and Amerigo Vespucci voyaged further east along the coast.

In 1501, Vespucci undertook a second voyage down the East Coast of South America.

How did the new continent come to be known as America?

North America and South America are named after Amerigo Vespucci.

Vespucci led a voyage of exploration to Central and South America, between 1497 and 1504, on behalf of Spain and Portugal. He travelled to many lands, including Venezuela and Brazil.

After he hung up his exploring boots, Vespucci put forth the idea that the places he explored were part of the 'New World,' and not part of Asia as Columbus had believed.

The autobiographical account of Vespucci's travels was immensely popular. His 'New World' came to be known as the 'land of Amerigo', or America.



Statue of Amerigo Vespucci

The Amazon

Vicente Pinzon discovered the estuary of the Amazon River by sheer accident. He sailed into it. Pinzon had been heading north-east up the coast when he noticed that the water had changed colour and was no longer salty. Pinzon had left the sea behind, and had sailed into the history books.

This is not Asia. Someone has changed the board!

ASIA





Statue of Verrazzano

How was the New York Bay explored?

According to the request of King Francis I of France, Giovanni da Verrazzano explored the North American coastline between Florida and Newfoundland.

In March, 1524, he reached Cape Fear in North Carolina. Verrazzano steered his craft north to Chesapeake Bay, and then up the Delaware and New Jersey coasts, to Rhode Island. He continued up the coast to Newfoundland. Then he sailed home across the North Atlantic. As he sailed up the Atlantic Coast, Verrazano discovered the New York Bay.

The upper bay appeared like a 'pleasant lake,' and he named it Santa Margarita in honour of the king's sister.

STAR FACT



Unknown 'Brazil'

'Brasil' was a term used by Irish monks and seafarers for a legendary unknown land. The territory of Portugal in the new continent was named 'Brazil', after the legendary land.

I'm ready to go to India.



GATEWAY TO ASIA

Why is it said that European explorers were always fascinated by India?

European explorers voyaged to India for 'god, glory, and gold'.

Greed for wealth was the main cause of Europe's fascination with India. Merchants, adventurers, and government officials hoped to discover precious metals and expand trade with the East, primarily in spices and gold. The desire to convert natives to the Christian faith also fuelled European exploration. Marco Polo's accounts of his travels to the court of Kublai Khan also fascinated explorers.

Moreover, the Ottoman expansion in the fourteenth century made travel by land to the East difficult, if not impossible. Thus, a sea route to India became a necessity for Europe.



Marco Polo

Who opened the sea route to India?

The voyage to India was a dream come true for Vasco da Gama. Gama made history as the first man to open the sea route to India.

Bartolomeu Dias had discovered a sea route round Africa into the Indian Ocean, and Vasco da Gama seized the opportunity with both hands.

Gama set sail from Lisbon in July, 1497. He sailed south into the Atlantic, giving a wide berth to the rogue winds and tides along the African coast. Gama crossed the Cape of Good Hope into the Indian Ocean.

On 20th May 1498, Vasco da Gama made his historic landfall at Kappad, in Southern India.

Vasco da Gama lands at Kappad, India.

Portuguese Reign

Vasco da Gama's expedition led to the establishment of colonies in India. India became an independent country in 1947, but these colonies remained in Portuguese hands until 1961.



*Pillar of
Vasco da Gama at
Malindi, Kenya.*

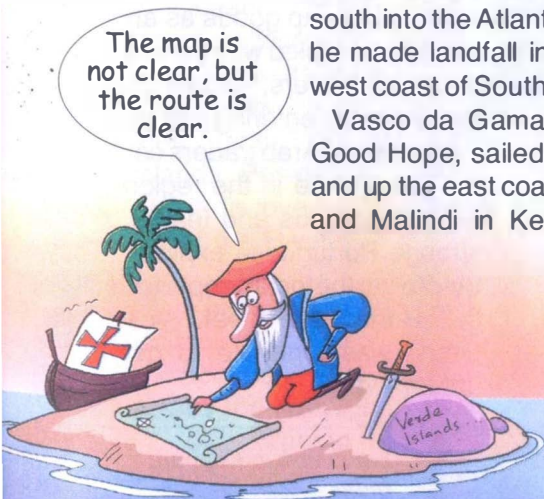


What was the route on which Gama travelled and explored India?

Vasco da Gama set off on his historic voyage from Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. En route, he stopped at the Cape Verde Islands for a week in July. Then, he sailed south into the Atlantic. Ninety six days later, he made landfall in St Helena Bay on the west coast of South Africa.

Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope, sailed into the Indian Ocean, and up the east coast of Africa to Mombasa and Malindi in Kenya. From Malindi, he

headed north east into the Indian Ocean. Fortune, too, favoured Gama, and favourable winds sped his craft to Kappad in India, in 1498.



STAR FACT



Tough Voyage

Vasco da Gama made the sea, a home away from home. During his first voyage to India, he spent 300 days at sea.

What was the kind of response Vasco da Gama received in India?

Initially, the local people welcomed Vasco da Gama, and treated him like a guest.

However, relations soured quickly, and tensions rose when Gama offered their ruler a collection of relatively cheap goods as an arrival gift. This, coupled with the hostility of the Arab traders, forced Gama to leave without entering into a treaty.

At the time, Arab traders controlled the spice trade in the region. They were suspicious and fearful of this strange Portuguese explorer. They tried to get the local people to destroy the Portuguese fleet. Vasco da Gama was fortunate to get away unharmed.



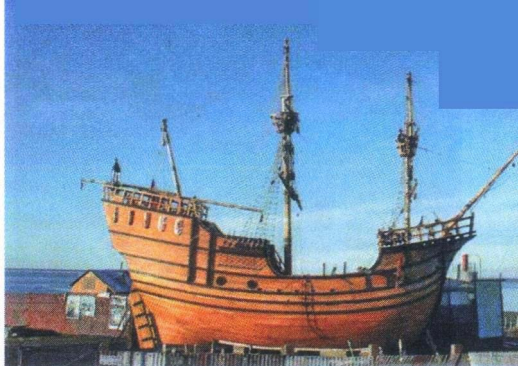
Landmark at Kappad, India

Why is it said that Magellan's circumnavigation proved to be a remarkable feat of exploration?

Ferdinand Magellan and his fleet of ships voyaged into the pages of history as the first expedition to circumnavigate the world. Curiously, Magellan had not planned to sail round the world.

He discovered a hitherto unknown westerly route to Asia, and sailed across the Pacific Ocean. His adventurous journey opened up new trade possibilities with the Philippines and the Spice Islands. Besides, Magellan discovered the world of the Pacific Islands.

Magellan himself did not complete the voyage, because he was killed by the native people of Mactan Islands in Philippines.



Replica of Magellan's Ship





Island of Guam

Who were the first Europeans who visited Japan in the early period?

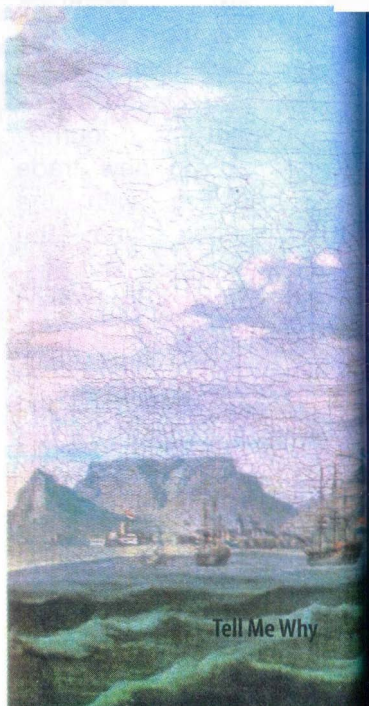
Visitors were not welcome in Japan, and for many ages, the island kingdom lived in splendid isolation.

Why did the Spanish call the island of Guam, 'Ladrones'?

Ladrones means 'thieves' in Spanish. The islanders of Guam stole everything they could lay their hands on.

However, they proved to be kind hearted thieves. As Magellan crossed the Pacific Ocean, his fleet ran out of food. The starving crew landed in Guam in March, 1521.

The islanders gave fresh water, coconuts, and rice to the hungry crew. From there, the expedition headed for the Philippines, and Guam became Ladrones to the Spanish.





Columbus and other European explorers longed to reach Japan. In 1542, Japan finally played host to Portuguese visitors. The Jesuits soon

followed in their footsteps.

In 1609, the Dutch East India Company set up a trading base near Nagasaki. They helped Japanese warlords to attack Christians. Japanese Christians were massacred at the Hara Castle, following the Shimabara Rebellion in 1638. As a consequence, Portuguese traders were expelled.

Japan allowed only the Dutch and the Chinese to trade with her, and shut out the rest of the world.



A Dutch Ship

Curious Fact



The Samurai

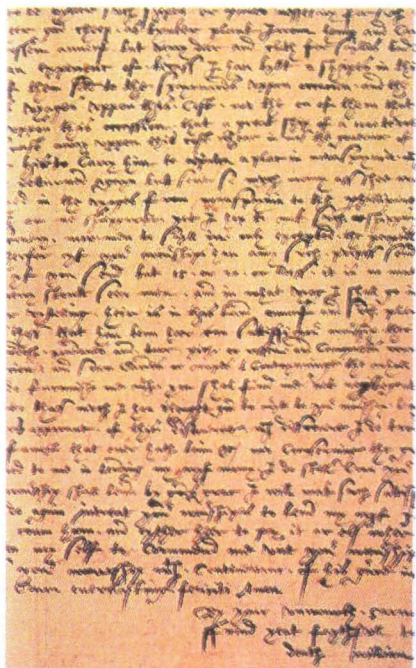
The sword of the samurai was a symbol of honour. The samurai or bushi were famed warriors of ancient Japan. They fought with bows and arrows and spears and guns. But the sword was their weapon of choice. The Samurai were Confucians, that is, they followed the precepts of Confucius. The Samurai were also attracted to Zen Buddhism.



Tokugawa Iyeyasu

Why was William Adams made a Samurai?

William Adams, the famous explorer, was jailed in Japan. In 1600, he became the first Englishman to visit Japan. He was imprisoned, released, and later employed by a local lord.



*A Letter Written by
William Adams*

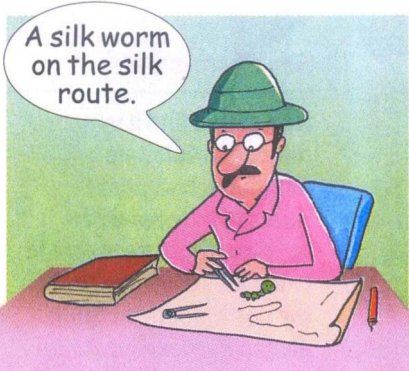
The lord took his help to build a modern navy. Later, William Adams was bestowed the title of Samurai or knight. At the time, Tokugawa Iyeyasu was the Shogun. Shogun means the leading military ruler of Japan. William Adams became the trusted advisor of the Shogun.

Statue of William Adams

Sea Chronometer

Navigators find it very difficult to estimate longitude. Longitude refers to the east-west location. They were able to calculate only latitude, or the north-south position. James Harrison invented the chronometer which gives an accurate measurement of longitude.





A silk worm
on the silk
route.

Why is it said that Sven Hedin played an important role in the exploration of Central Asia?

In 1890, Sven Hedin set out for Central Asia. Even in the nineteenth century, Europeans were in the dark about the centre of Asia.

Tibet remained the forbidden kingdom, and the old Silk Route had faded from collective memory.

Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer led four epic expeditions. He mapped most of Central Asia. Sven Hedin explored the Silk Route, and crossed the apparently endless Taklimakan and Gobi deserts of Western China and Mongolia.

The Chinese government asked him to prepare a detailed map of the old Silk Route, and the explorer obliged.

Sven Hedin

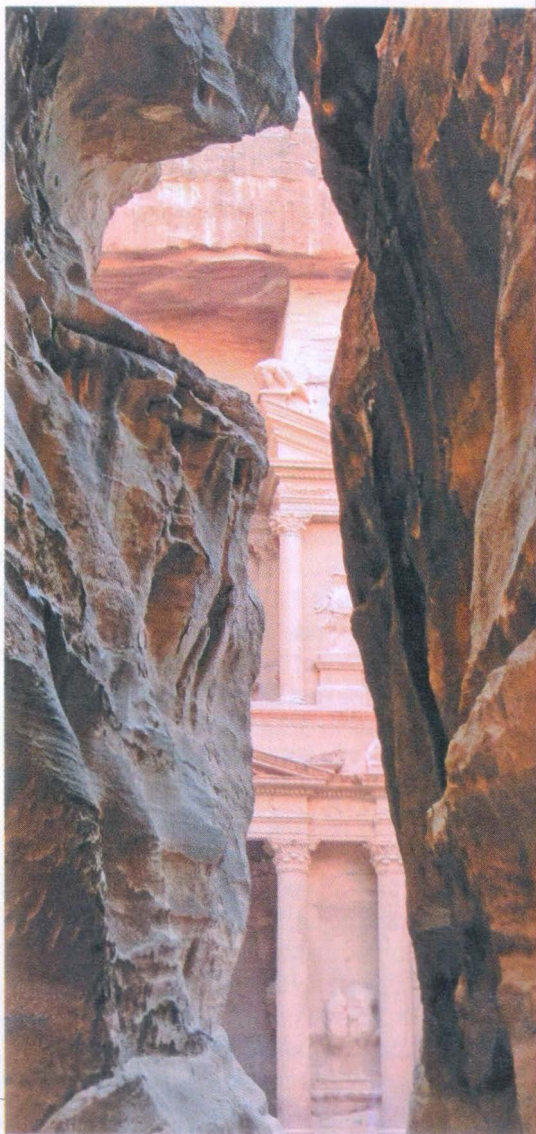
Why is the exploration of Petra an important one?

Petra was a city carved from solid rock. John Ludwig Burckhardt was a diehard explorer who visited the forgotten city. It is in Jordan.

He became the first westerner in modern times to gain access to the city. Burckhardt arrived in Syria under the pseudonym, or assumed name of Sheikh Ibrahim ibn Abdallah.

From Syria, he headed south towards Egypt, and made it to Petra in 1812. The city became fully accessible to foreigners only in 1920.

Petra dates back to the 2nd century BC. The poet J.W. Burgon described Petra as the 'rose-red city, half as old as time'.



Petra

STAR FACT



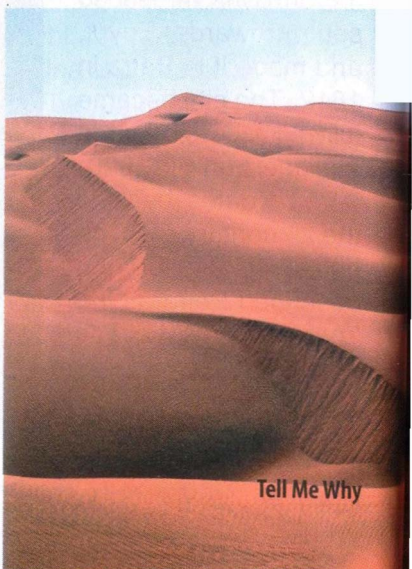
Hippalus

The contribution of Hippalus is a bone of contention among historians. Hippalus was a Greek navigator and merchant who probably lived in the 1st century BC. The writer of *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* credits Hippalus with the discovery of the direct route from the Red Sea to India, over the Indian Ocean. The Erythraean Sea refers to the Red Sea. Hippalus achieved this feat by plotting the scheme of the sea, and the exact location of the trade ports along the Indian coast. Some historians rubbish this claim. They believe that Hippalus discovered only a monsoon wind. The monsoon wind was also called Hippalus.

Why is it said that the crossing of the 'Empty-Quarter' was a significant one?

The 'Empty Quarter' was one of the loneliest places on the planet. This desert of southeast Saudi Arabia had barely a few people, and no roads at all. Even animals struggled to survive there. The Empty Quarter is also known as the Rub' al Khali.

Bertram Thomas was a British civil servant who rose to become the finance minister to the Sultan of Oman. He made several expeditions to the desert as part of his duties.



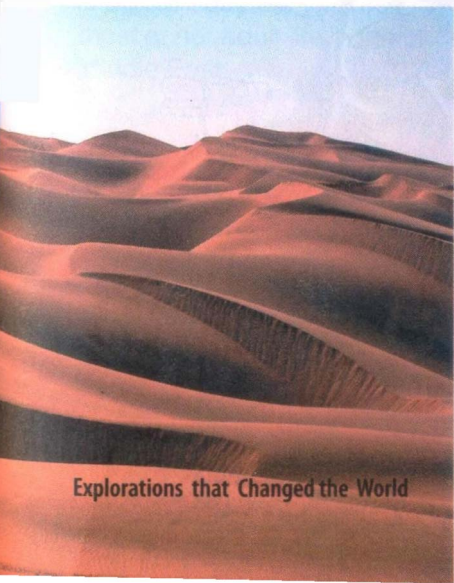
Petra

A visitor enters the city of Petra through a gap in the rocks. The gap is only three to four metres wide. Petra means rock.

A monastery, church, tombs and other buildings have been carved out of solid red rock.

Bertram Thomas set out across the Rub' al Khali in 1930 and finished crossing it in 1931. He became the first European to achieve this feat. In 1932, he penned 'Arabia Felix'. The book gives more than a glimpse of the desert's people, and their culture.

Empty Quarter



STAR FACT



Arabia Deserta

Charles Doughty lived for two years in the desert, and wrote about his strange experiences. This English explorer roamed with the nomads of the Syrian and Arabian deserts. Initially his book, 'Travels in Arabia Deserta,' did not get the attention it deserved. Fortunately, the great scholar T.E. Lawrence championed the book and it became hugely popular.

Who mapped the entire Empty Quarter?

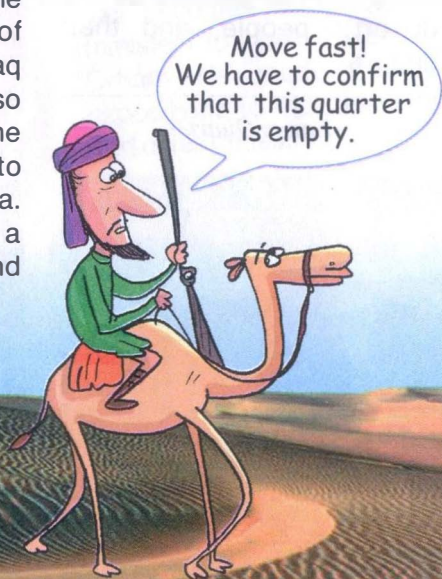
Wilfred Thesiger had a 'strange compulsion' to wander the deserts of the world. His wanderlust turned Thesiger into an explorer.

Thesiger was born in Addis Ababa as the son of a British diplomat. Between 1945 and 1949, Thesiger explored virtually every inch of the Empty Quarter. He also mapped it to perfection.

Thesiger wandered over the deserts and mountains of Arabia, and was drawn to Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He also visited Kenya. In 1930, he became the first European to visit parts of Northern Ethiopia. Thesiger remained a passionate explorer to the end of his life.



Wilfred Thesiger



What is the role of the Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark in the history of exploration?

Freya Stark and Gertrude Bell proved that women explorers were not too far behind their male counterparts. Stark learned Arabic, and journeyed to Arabia in 1927. She travelled with the nomads, and wrote books about her many journeys.

The Hashshahim were a clan of feared desert people, but that did not deter Freya Stark. In 1930, the brave lady landed on the steps of their castle in Alamut. The visit was a success. In the years that followed, Stark explored the Arabian Desert. She continued to explore until the 1950s.

Getrude Bell made it to Persia which is present day Iran, in 1892. She spent most of her adult life in the study of the Middle East.



Freya Stark

Curious Fact



Marsh Islands

The Marsh Arabs live in the Marsh Islands. The Marsh Islands of Southern Iraq is home to these people. This area is rich in reeds. The Marsh Islands have always been isolated from the rest of Iraq and escaped slaves fled to the safety of these islands.



AROUND AUSTRALIA

When, and where, did the first people of Australia come from?

Humans used islands as stepping stones to reach Australia. The early explorers travelled along a chain of



What was the importance of Polynesians in the history of exploration?

The Polynesians peopled the Pacific Islands. They hailed from Taiwan, and launched daring expeditions from their home base.

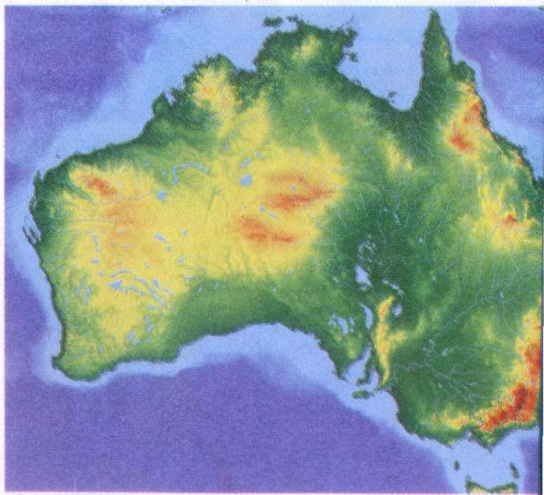
The invention of the outrigger canoe gave impetus to their expeditions. The outrigger canoe provided a swift, yet stable platform for carrying goods and

people. Initially, they sailed east from Indonesia, in about 200 BC. They reached Fiji, Tonga and Samoa by 100 BC.

The Polynesian culture flowered on these islands. In 200 BC, they sailed east to Tahiti and Easter Island and north to Hawaii. From Hawaii, they sailed south, and eventually, set foot on Aotearoa in New Zealand. The Polynesians courted danger to complete some of the most remarkable expeditions of all time.

islands from Sulawesi and New Guinea, to arrive in Australia.

Sulawesi in Borneo is now part of Indonesia. Other groups of settlers may have taken the route through Timor to reach Australia. Man settled in Australia 50,000 to 70,000 years ago. Archeologists are yet to agree on the exact date.



Topographic picture of Australia

Curious Fact



Aotearoa

Aotearoa was the last group of islands to be colonized by the Polynesians. The new settlers were known as the Maori. The Maori adapted their customs to live off the unique plants and animals found on the islands.

What are the navigation techniques used by the Polynesians?

The navigational skill of the Polynesians was distilled from experience. They had no instruments to guide them, yet they succeeded in colonizing the Pacific Islands.

The changes in the winds and currents, the patterns made by the waves, and the flight of migrating birds were the inputs used by the Polynesians to navigate the seas.

They also looked to the sun and the stars to find their location. Each island had its 'on top' star. For instance, when Sirius shone overhead, the Polynesians knew that they were in the same latitude as Tahiti.

Twinkle, twinkle,
little star,
How I wonder
where we are?

STAR FACT



Stick Charts

Polynesian navigators were trained in using the humble stick chart. The charts were made of a network of palm sticks fastened with coconut fibre. The location of each island, relative to the ocean currents, was represented by a shell threaded to the sticks.

Who was the first European to see the Pacific?

A Spaniard was the first European to see the Pacific. Vasco Nunez de Balboa was the founding father of the Spanish colony on the Panama Isthmus in Central America.

The name of the colony is a mouthful. It was called Santa Maria La Antigua del Darien. From the local people, Balboa heard of a vast ocean on the west. He crossed the Panama Isthmus in 1513, and became the first European to see the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Balboa passed away in 1519.

Statue of Balboa

Why is it said that Sir Alexander Mackenzie played an important role in the history of the Pacific?

Sir Alexander Mackenzie was a Scottish explorer. He became the first European north of Mexico to reach the Pacific Ocean by an overland route.

Mackenzie's first journey ended in failure. However, it did aid in mapping the northern regions of the continent. On his second trip, Mackenzie took a more southerly route from the Great Slave Lake.

The journey was a demanding one, but Mackenzie was undaunted. He sailed into the Pacific Ocean on July 22nd, 1793. The great Scott had tasted success.



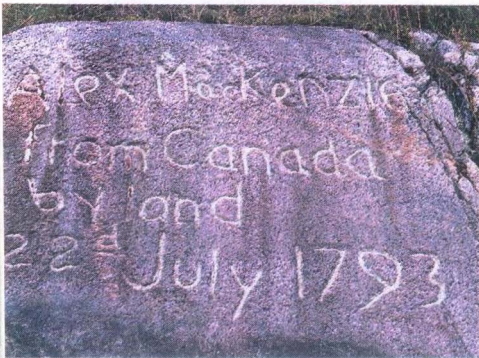
Alexander Mackenzie

Curious Fact



Blind Belief

The Ancient Greeks knew about Australia well before the Age of Explorations, and the advent of Captain Cook. They did not know of its whereabouts, nor had any Greek been there, but they were certain that it existed.



Mackenzie's Inscription

Who were the explorers who set out across the Pacific?

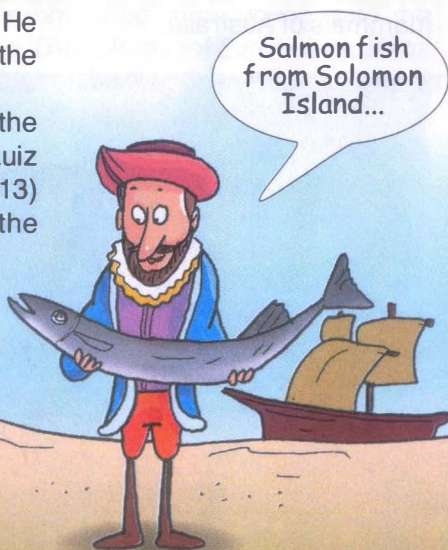
Ferdinand Magellan's history making expedition inspired several Spanish and Portuguese explorers to set out across the Pacific Ocean. In 1567, Alvaro de Mendana (1541-1595) sailed west from Peru with twin aims.

He desired to convert people to Christianity, and to set up a Spanish settlement. Mendana discovered the Solomon Islands. In 1605, Pedro Fernandez de Quiros (1565-1614) set sail to discover the southern continent. He succeeded in landing on the Cook Islands and Vanuatu.

However, he abandoned the expedition, at that point. Luiz Vaez de Torres (1565-1613) took over the reins of the expedition and sailed round New Guinea.



Ferdinand Magellan

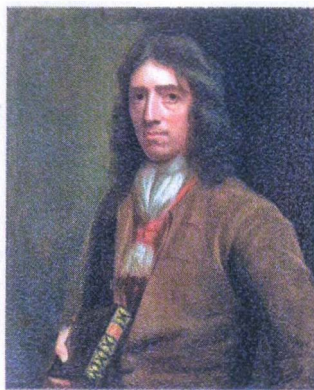


What is the importance of William Dampier in the history of Australia?

William Dampier was a pirate who became a scientist. Dampier was the first Englishman to land on the Australian mainland.

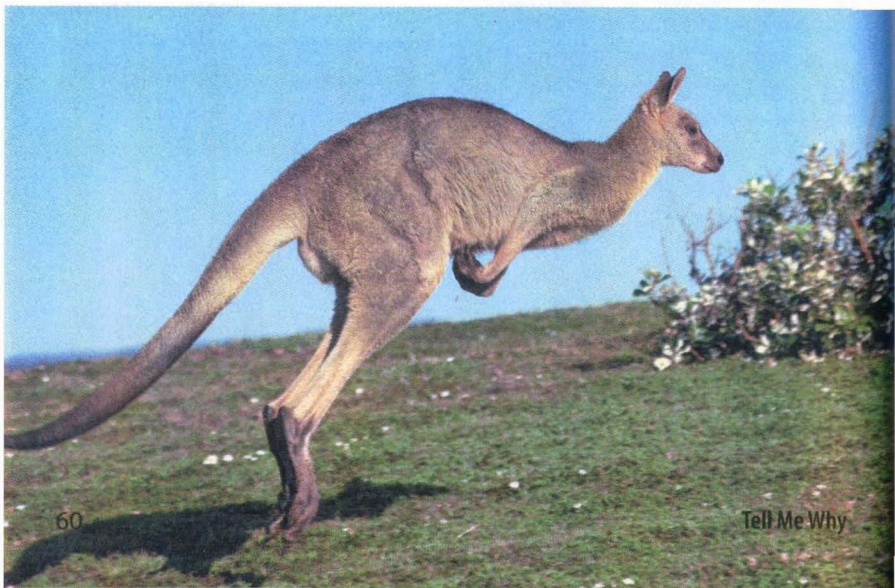
On 5th January, 1688, his small trading vessel was beached near King Sound on the northwest coast. There, he jotted down his observations on the fauna and flora, and the indigenous people of Australia.

He returned to the region again in 1699, before sailing home to England. He was the first European to inform the world about the kangaroo, and other large hopping mammals of Australia.



William Dampier

Kangaroo





Tahiti Islands

Why did Captain James Cook lead an expedition to Tahiti in the Pacific Islands?

Captain James Cook found greatness at sea. He sailed twice round the world, and commanded three voyages to the Pacific. The colonies of European nations took root in the Pacific region as a result of the voyages of Captain Cook.

This British explorer was asked to discover whether the land of New Holland existed in reality. He sailed from England in 1768, rounded Cape Horn, and continued westward across the Pacific Ocean. Captain Cook touched the shores of Tahiti on April 13th, 1769.

I'm here
just to study
corn farming.



Why are Captain Cook's expeditions of lasting importance?

Captain James Cook fished for knowledge. He added greatly to early knowledge of the southern Pacific Ocean, and the western North American coast. Many scientists accompanied Captain Cook. Their observations and discoveries lent his voyages a scientific dimension.

Captain Cook was the first European to establish many contacts with the Pacific Islanders. He found a surefire cure for scurvy, a dreaded disease of the time. The accounts Cook wrote of his journeys make for exciting reading.



Captain Cook's Death- A Painting

STAR FACT



Tasman's Land

The Tasmanian Island is named after Abel Tasman who was an able seaman. In 1642, Tasman launched his expedition from Batavia. He crossed the Indian Ocean, and reached Mauritius. He was on a mission to explore the land south of Java, and more importantly, to find a passage between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans. From Mauritius, Tasman sailed south and east. He became the first European to visit Tasmania, New Zealand, and Fiji. Tasman called Tasmania, Van Diemen's Land.



*Replica of Captain Cook's
'Endeavour'*

Why was Cook's ship 'The Endeavour', different from the other ships?

Captain Cook's first ship was prophetically named 'Endeavour'. The Endeavour was but a converted coal ship. The craft was spacious, and measured 29 metres in length. Built to last, the Endeavour was ideal for spending many months at sea.

A crew of a hundred men manned the ship, and it carried food supply for fifteen months. What the Endeavour lacked in speed, it made up in size.

*Friendly winds
Take me home....*

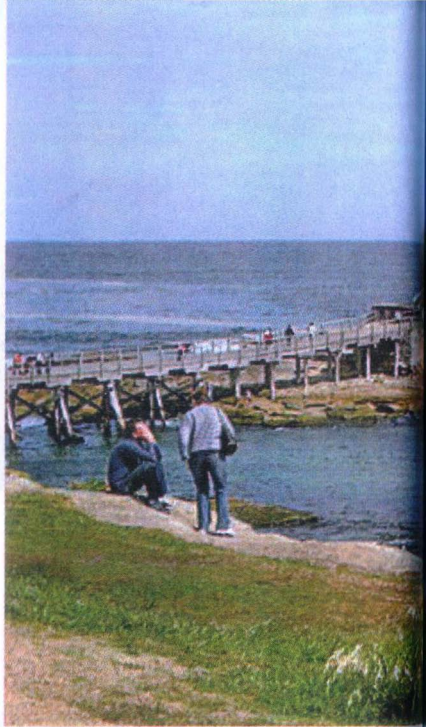


Who discovered the Sandwich Isles?

Captain Cook discovered the Sandwich Isles. The ships 'Resolution' and 'Discovery' carried Cook and his crew during this voyage. In July 1776 the expedition left the shores of England.

He sailed south to Cape Town, crossed the Indian Ocean to New Zealand and revisited Tahiti. He visited a group of islands that are now known as Cook Islands in his honour.

Captain Cook then sailed north, and discovered a volcanic Hawaiian Island. He named it Sandwich Isles after one of his patrons, the Earl of Sandwich.



One of the Sandwich Isles

Curious Fact



Scurvy Curer

Sailors who went weeks together without fresh food were often attacked by scurvy. Scurvy is a disease occurring due to the deficiency of Vitamin C. Cook tackled the disease with a diet of lemon, orange juice, vinegar malt, and a cabbage dish

known as sauerkraut. Sailors who refused the diet were flogged.



Why is it said that La Perouse's voyage was a disastrous one?

With two ships at his command, La Perouse set sail from France on a journey to disaster. The French nobleman guided his ships round Cape Horn, and cruised up the eastern Pacific to Alaska. However, he failed to find a northwest passage. The expedition then sailed to China.

A letter from France changed the course of the expedition again. As per orders, he navigated his ships to New South Wales in Australia to investigate a settlement. He arrived at Botany Bay immediately after the British had set up a prison colony there.

From Botany Bay, La Perouse and his brave men headed north towards New Guinea but they were never heard of again.

Who were the first explorers of inland Australia?

A host of explorers shed light on the continent of Australia. Before their time, Europeans had but a sketchy knowledge of the coast of Australia. Moreover, its vast interior remained an area of darkness. The English naval captain Matthew Flinders and the surgeon George Bass, mapped much of the coastline south of Sydney in 1798 and 1799. They also circumnavigated Tasmania, proving that it was an island. Two years later, Flinders went one step ahead, and circled the whole continent.

Murray and Darling, the two major rivers of Australia were mapped by Charles Sturt, in two expeditions in 1828 and in 1830. In 1841, Edward Eyre, trekked from Adelaide in South Australia to Albany in Western Australia. He weaved a path through the arid coast of the Great Australian Bight. A bight is a bend in the coast that forms an open bay.



Charles Sturt





*European Settlers with the
Aborigines of Australia*

Who were the native people of Australia at the time of the European exploration?

The Aborigines were the natives when the first Europeans arrived there.

The aboriginal people had themselves arrived in Australia from Asia around 40,000 years ago. They had probably walked across a land bridge. Slowly but surely, they spread across the new continent. These nomadic hunters and gatherers lived in small groups.

Each group lived by its own laws, and spoke a language of their own. Australia was home to 350,000 Aborigines in about 700 tribes, when the first settlers arrived there in 1788.



Curious Fact



Terra Australis

The entire South Pacific region was referred to as Australia before 1824. The Australia of modern times was then called 'Terra Australis,' or New Holland.

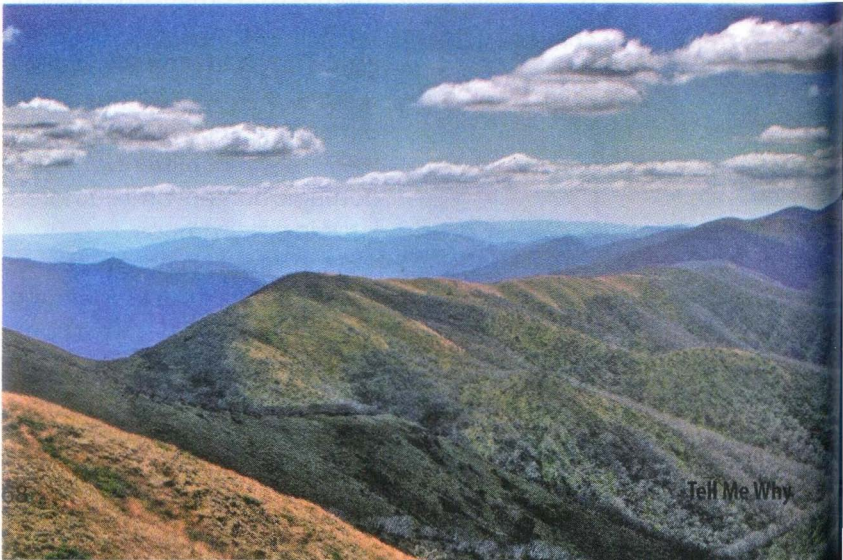
● **SnehaRao**

Why was the interior of Australia called the Ghastly Blank?

The first European explorers of Australia were stopped in their tracks by the Dividing Range. They went no further, and had to be content with exploring the coast.

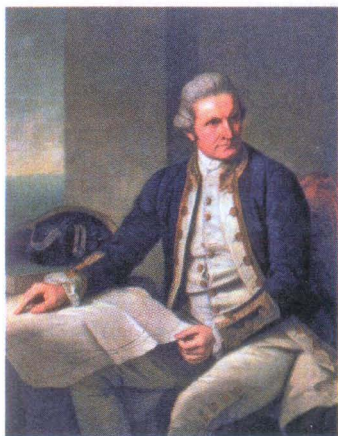
The Dividing Range is a great mountain range that extends 4800 kilometres along the eastern shore. Beyond it lay the Australian Outback – vast areas of inhospitable desert, inhabited only by the local people known as Aborigines. Very little was known about it. To the

The Dividing Range



Europeans, it was a 'ghastly blank' of alkaline deserts, guarded by barrier reefs and jagged mountains.

In 1788, the first British settlers arrived in Sydney Cove to set up a prison colony there. In two expedi-



Captain James Cook, the First European to Map the Eastern - Coastline of Australia in 1770

tions in 1828 and 1830, Charles Sturt mapped Australia's two major rivers, the Murray and Darling. Later, majority of the interior of Australia were explored.



Kanata to Canada

Jacques Cartier carried out three expeditions to Canada in 1534, 1535, and 1541. The French explorer followed his dream of finding a Northwest Passage to the Pacific through North America. However, he failed to find it. But he became famous for naming Canada. Cartier paved the way for French exploration of North America. He sailed inland, sixteen hundred kilometres up the St. Lawrence River. 'Kanata' means village or settlement in the Huron-Iroquois language. Huron-Iroquois Indians gave Cartier directions to 'kanata', a village near present day Quebec. Cartier named the entire region Canada.

Curious Fact



Beasts of Burden

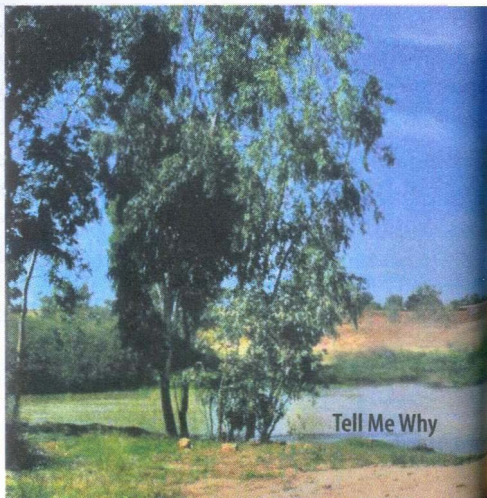
Camels were unheard of in Australia. In the 1840s, European explorers introduced camels to transport goods through the outback. Some of these camels escaped, and became the ancestors of Australia's wild camel population.

Statue of Burke and Wills



Why is the joint exploration of Robert Burke and William Wills a significant one?

The team of Robert O'Hara Burke, an Irishman, and William John Wills, an English surveyor, became the first to cross Australia from south to north. In 1860, the expedition set off from Melbourne. Camels carried their goods, and



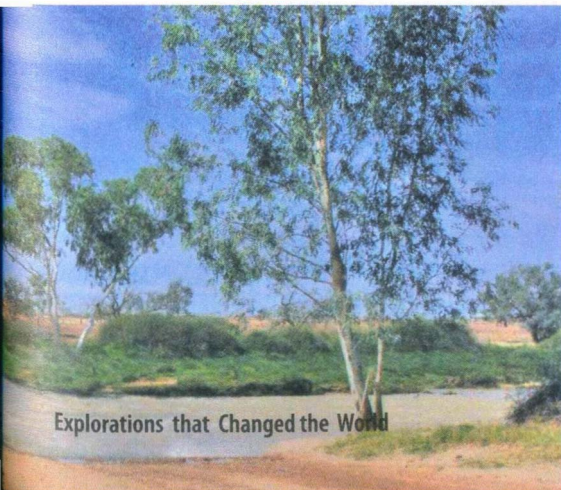


Arrival of Burke and Wills

after a journey that lasted nearly four months, they arrived at the mouth of the Flanders River.

Success was theirs, but it had been slow in coming. On their return journey, tragedy struck. The lives of the two men were cut short by starvation and exhaustion in 1861.

Cooper Creek- Site of the Death of Burke and Wills



Explorations that Changed the World

STAR FACT



Dutch East India Company

The Dutch East India Company was established to break the stranglehold, the Spanish and the Portuguese had on the slave trade. The company came into being in 1602. Based in Batavia, the company employed its large fleet of ships to good effect, and quickly gained control of the seas around South East Asia.



EXTREME EXPLORATION

The Northwest Passage

What is the Northwest Passage?

The Northwest Passage was the fabled route to riches. Early explorers searched high and low for this easy sea route around the northern end of America. They believed that this route would pave the way to the riches of the East. The explorers hoped to make a fortune out of the silks, spices, and jewels which the East was justly famous for. From





Martin Frobisher

Who was the first English navigator to search for the Northwest Passage?

Martin Frobisher failed to discover gold and glory, but he did chalk up some notable achievements against his name.

Sir Martin Frobisher was a naval officer who set sail from his native England to North America. His grand aim was to find the Northwest Passage, and the wealth of the East at a single stroke. To this end, he conducted a series of trips to Canada in 1576.

1576, for sixty years, one expedition after another hunted for this dream route through the Arctic, but in vain.

A challenging route to the East did exist and it was called the Northeast Passage.

He explored Baffin Island, and wasted no time in claiming it for England. He also discovered Resolution Island and Frobisher Bay. Frobisher also claimed Resolution Island for England. These were the significant contributions of Martin Frobisher, the explorer who failed to find the Northwest Passage, or gold.

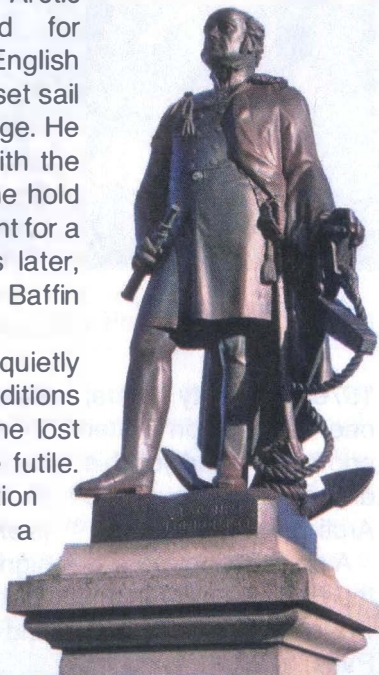
Frobisher Bay

Why did Sir John Franklin's Arctic expedition vanish without a trace?

Statue of John Franklin

The mystery of the missing Arctic expedition remained unsolved for fourteen years. In May 1845, the English Rear Admiral, Sir John Franklin, set sail in search of the Northwest Passage. He commanded two ships, fitted with the latest engines and propellers. The hold of the ships held supplies sufficient for a three year voyage. Two months later, Franklin's ships were sighted in Baffin Bay. They were seen no more.

This vanishing act was not quietly accepted. More than forty expeditions combed the seas in search of the lost expedition, but their efforts were futile. Fourteen years later, an expedition found a skeleton, and parts of a journal well inside the Arctic Circle. It was the chilling end of a mystery.



STAR FACT



Fool's Gold

Martin Frobisher triggered a mini gold rush when he found rocks speckled with glittering flakes. In the summer of 1578, 15 ships mined the ore in Frobisher Bay. The excited explorers carried away the ore to England but it turned out to be iron pyrites, better known as fool's gold.



*Amundsen and
his Crew at the
South Pole*

What is the significance of Roald Amundsen in the exploration of the Northwest Passage?

Where many failed, Roald Amundsen succeeded. He was the first explorer to master the challenging Northwest Passage and his exploration lasted three years.

In June 1903, his expedition set sail from the port of Oslo, Norway. He camped on King William Island, and spent two winters there.

In August 1905, he sailed towards Beaufort Sea. He was forced to spend another winter in the Arctic, as the ice closed in. Amundsen, the conqueror of the Northwest Passage arrived to a hero's welcome in San Francisco on October, 1906.



Roald Amundsen



Where is the Magnetic North Pole situated?

The Magnetic North Pole is not easy to pin point, for the point keeps shifting. The Magnetic North Pole is the point from where the magnetic lines of Earth point downwards. There is only one location where this occurs, near the Geographic North pole and the Geomagnetic North Pole.

Sir John Ross discovered the Magnetic North Pole. He found it at Cape Adelaide on the Boothia Peninsula on June 1, 1831. Roald Amundsen found the Magnetic North Pole in a slightly different location in 1903.



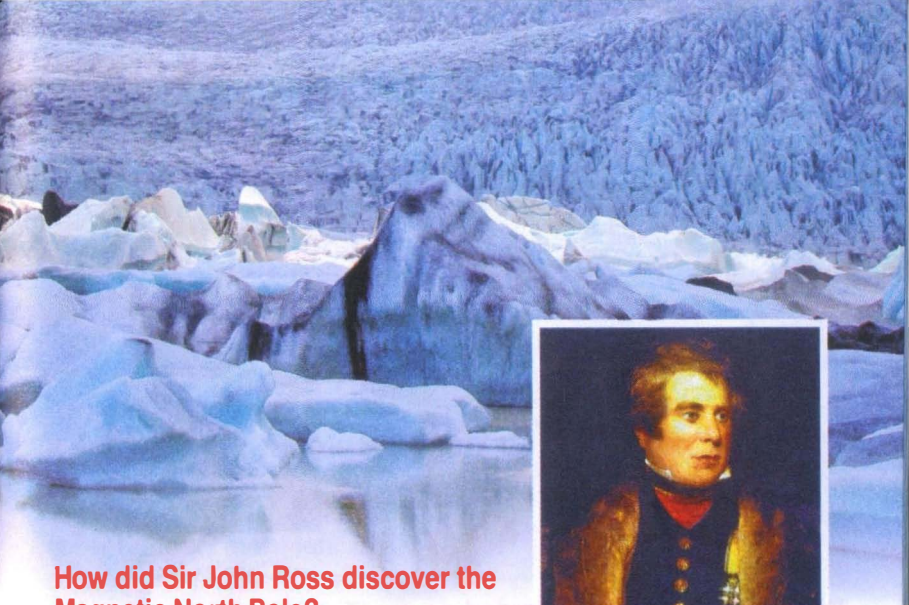
John Ross

Curious Fact



A Great Loss

Tragedy hung like a cloud over the expedition of Sir John Franklin and preyed on the expeditions that set out to find him. Over forty expeditions set out in search of Franklin. More men and ships were lost in the search than were lost in the original expedition.

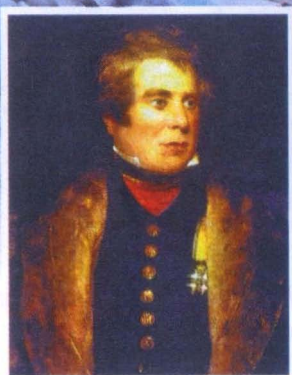


How did Sir John Ross discover the Magnetic North Pole?

Sir John Ross arose from failure to discover the Magnetic North Pole.

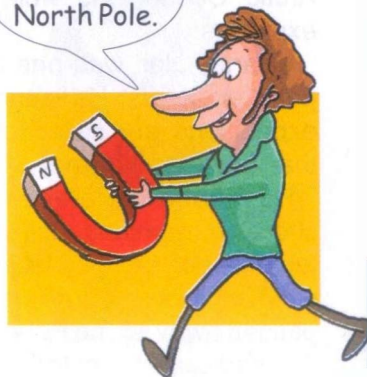
The first expedition of this Scottish Rear Admiral ended in failure. He launched a second expedition in 1829. However, this expedition also seemed to go the way of the first, when in the Boothia Peninsula, his ship became stuck on ice. The crew was stranded there for four years.

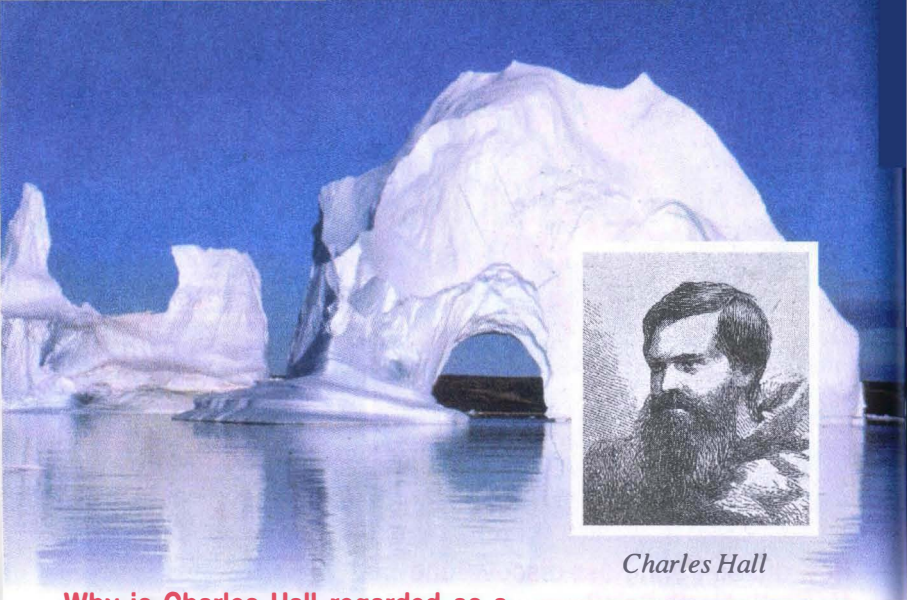
During this period, with the help of the local Inuit or Eskimos, they explored the regions to the west and north. During one of these explorations, Ross discovered the Magnetic North Pole on the Boothia Peninsula, on 1 June 1831.



Portrait of John Ross

Ready to discover the North Pole.





Charles Hall

Why is Charles Hall regarded as a leading polar explorer?

The race to the top of the world began in the nineteenth century. The North Pole, was still an unknown territory, though the coastline of the Arctic Ocean was well known to explorers.

Charles Hall was one of the first polar explorers. He launched three expeditions, and sailed further north than any man before.

He was the first to land on the north shore of Greenland. Hall adopted the techniques of the local Inuit to survive. However he fell ill, and passed away on the *Polaris*, the ship that had carried him to Greenland.

Northeast Passage

The Northeast Passage is a sea route that extends from Europe's North Sea, along the Arctic coast of Asia, and through the Bering Sea to the Pacific Ocean. Nils Adolf Erik Nordskjöld, the Swedish explorer, was the first to complete a voyage through it, along the northern coast of Europe and Asia.

Why is Robert Peary such an important explorer?

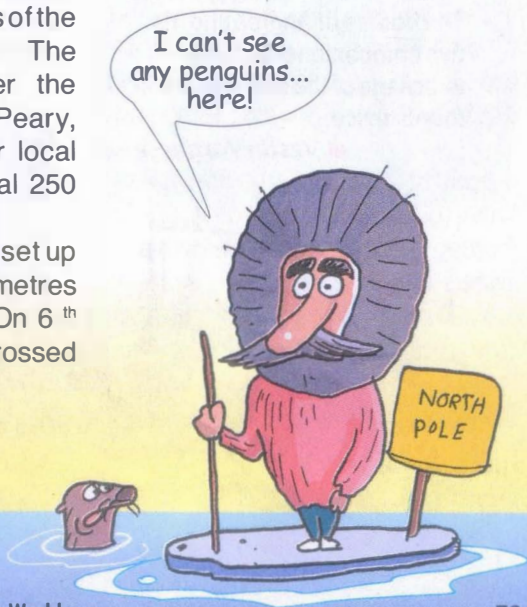
Robert Peary made history. The brave explorer set his heart on being the first human to reach the North Pole. Peary pushed north in a series of expeditions that started in 1886.

In 1909, he was primed for the final attempt to reach the North Pole. The team of twenty four men left their base camp on Ellesmere Island in March, 1909. They set up a series of supply camps along two thirds of the route to the Pole. The expedition sped over the hard ice. This allowed Peary, Henson, and the four local Inuits to cover the final 250 kilometres to the Pole.

Five days later, they set up camp just five kilometres away from the Pole. On 6th April, 1909, Peary crossed the North Pole.



Robert Peary



STAR FACT



Balloon Tragedy

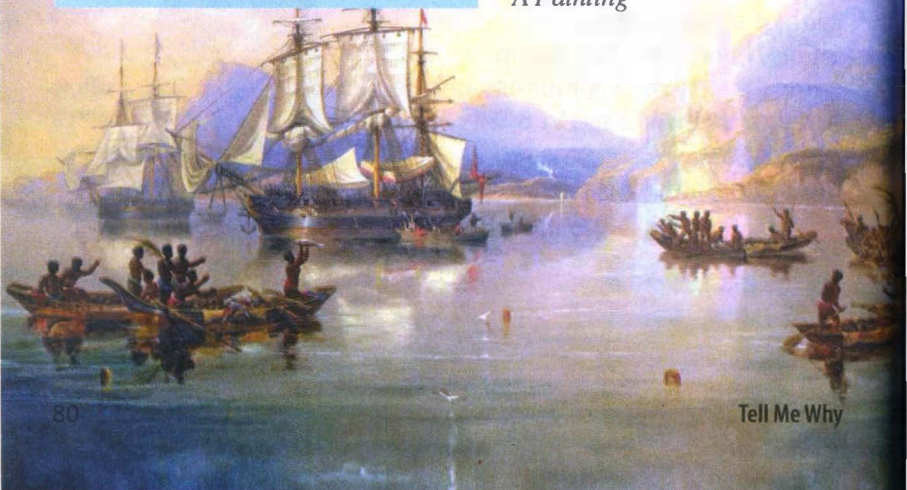
The Swedish engineer, Salomon Andree, made a daring attempt to fly to the North Pole in a hot air balloon. His balloon was named 'Ornen,' which means eagle. He took off from Spitsbergen in his balloon. Two days later, he disappeared. The bodies of Andree and his two companions, and the wreckage of the balloon, were found on ice.

● Vestin Varghese

Why is it said that Sir James Ross played an important role in the history of Antarctica?

Even the hardiest of explorers found Antarctica to be too cold for comfort. The icy landmass of Antarctica overlapped a huge ice sheet that spread out into the sea, which made the continent difficult, if not impossible to find. Captain Cook did sail into Antarctic waters in 1773, but for the next seventy years, the cold continent remained unseen.

*Terror and Erebus in New Zealand, 1841-
A Painting*



The Englishman James Ross was a past master of polar exploration. He adeptly steered *Terror* and *Erebus*, his two ships, through the pack ice that surrounded the continent. He then sailed into the sea, which is now known as the Ross Sea. Though he was unable to land on Antarctica, his voyage inspired future explorers.



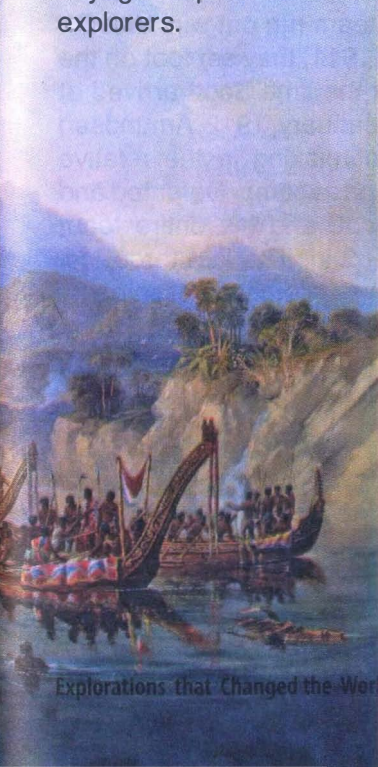
Borchgrevink

What is the significance of Carstens Borchgrevink in the history of explorations?

Carstens Borchgrevink came, saw, and wintered in Antarctica. In February 1899, Borchgrevink, a Norwegian by birth, landed off Cape Adare after braving the perils of the sea.

The *Southern Cross*, a Norwegian whaling ship, carried Borchgrevink and a mini scientific team. A meteorologist, a naturalist and two Lapps from Northern Norway were in the team.

They built a hut in the continent, and became the first to overwinter on the Antarctic mainland and the first to visit the Great Ice Barrier since the expedition of Sir James Ross nearly sixty years previously.



Curious Fact



Hot and Cold

James Ross saw nature blow hot and cold during his voyage. On 12th January 1841, James Ross landed on an icy island off Victoria Land, quite close to Antarctica. He named it Possession Island. Two weeks later, he sighted an active volcano. James Ross called it Mt Erebus.

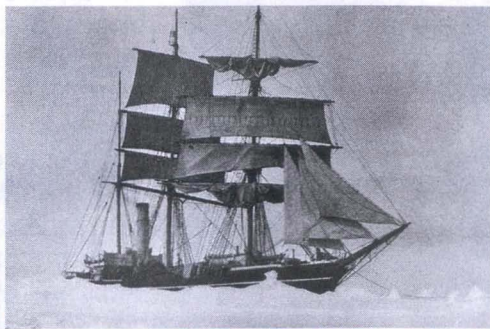
Why are Scott and Amundsen celebrated in the history of the Poles?

Robert Scott took on Roald Amundsen in a gripping race through danger. The South Pole was the finishing point, and the prize was the distinction of being the first man to reach the Pole.

Roald Amundsen was the first off the blocks. On 19th October 1911, his expedition raced away from the Bay of Wales on the east side of the Ross Sea. Within two weeks, Robert Scott set out from McMurdo Sound, in the western end of the Ross Sea.

Amundsen's team ran out winners. On 14th December 1911, they set foot on the South Pole. By the time Scott arrived at the Pole on 17th January, 1912, Amundsen and team were relaxing in the relative comfort of their base camp. Defeated and despondent, Scott and his entire team perished in the cold. The last three lost their lives within 18 kilometres of safety.

*Terra Nova
Photographed in 1910*



Tell Me Why



Robert Falcon Scott

Why was Robert Falcon Scott's expedition a disaster?

Robert Falcon Scott's expedition was the second to reach the South Pole, yet it went down in the history books as a disaster.

Scott's first expedition was unsuccessful. On 1st June, 1910, Scott set out again, on the Terra Nova.

He raced Roald Amundsen in a bid to become the first man to reach the Pole. Scott's team reached the South Pole on 17th January, 1912. The sight of Amundsen's Norwegian flag flying there took the wind out of their sails. Bitterly disappointed, and utterly exhausted, Robert Scott and his entire crew froze to death in a howling blizzard.

Ouch...
This time Santa
won the race!



Curious Fact



Failed Mission

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and Scott paid the ultimate price for having only a little knowledge of polar expeditions.

Amundsen wisely relied on dogs.

Robert Scott depended more on ponies, and three experimental 'motor sledges', which were but glorified tractors. The lack of knowledge and poor planning made their attempt a big tragedy.



Geographic South Pole

Why is Earnest Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole regarded as an epic of survival?

Earnest Shackleton attempted to break the shackles of ice and reach the South Pole in 1908. He and his team did succeed in reaching the Magnetic South Pole, the place all magnets point to. The Magnetic South Pole lies 180 kilometres away from the geographic South Pole.

Shackleton made a stepping stone of this failure, and launched a second expedition. He set sail in December, 1914, with a twenty seven member crew at his command.

Early in 1915, Earnest Shackleton's ship, the *Endurance* was trapped in



Ernest Shackleton

the ice and it sank ten months later. Shackleton and his crew launched lifeboats and sailed to Elephant Island.

From there, the captain and five of his crew sailed out to seek help. They reached South Georgia, and returned to rescue their stranded mates. They had to endure terrible hardships, and often had to go without food, yet every one of the twenty eight men escaped with their lives.

The expedition of Ernest Shackleton was an inspiring epic of survival.

Explorations that Changed the World

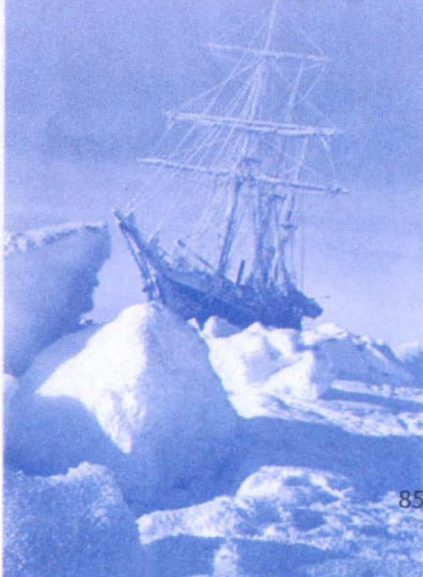
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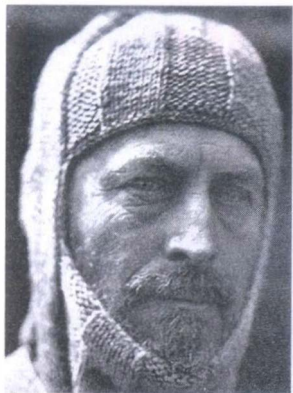


North to South

Amundsen's dream and his achievements were poles apart. Amundsen had dreamt of conquering the North Pole on Nansen's unique ship, the *Fram*. When he came to know that Robert Peary had beaten him to it, Amundsen changed his plan, and headed for the South Pole.

● *Dev Nath*





Douglas Mawson

Why is Douglas Mawson regarded as the explorer who slipped up in Antarctica?

A crack in the ice tripped up Douglas Mawson and his Antarctic expedition.

Douglas Mawson was an Australian explorer who led an expedition to explore the Antarctic coastline in 1911. A team member plunged into a crack in the ice with the bulk of the food supplies.

Mawson reached the base camp, only to find that the supply ship, the ship Aurora, had just sailed away. Douglas Mawson and his team were finally rescued at the end of winter.

Later, in 1916, the American Geographical Society awarded Mawson, the David Livingstone Centenary Medal. The exploration was the subject of David Robert's book- *Alone on the Ice: The Greatest Survival Story in the History of Exploration*.

STAR FACT

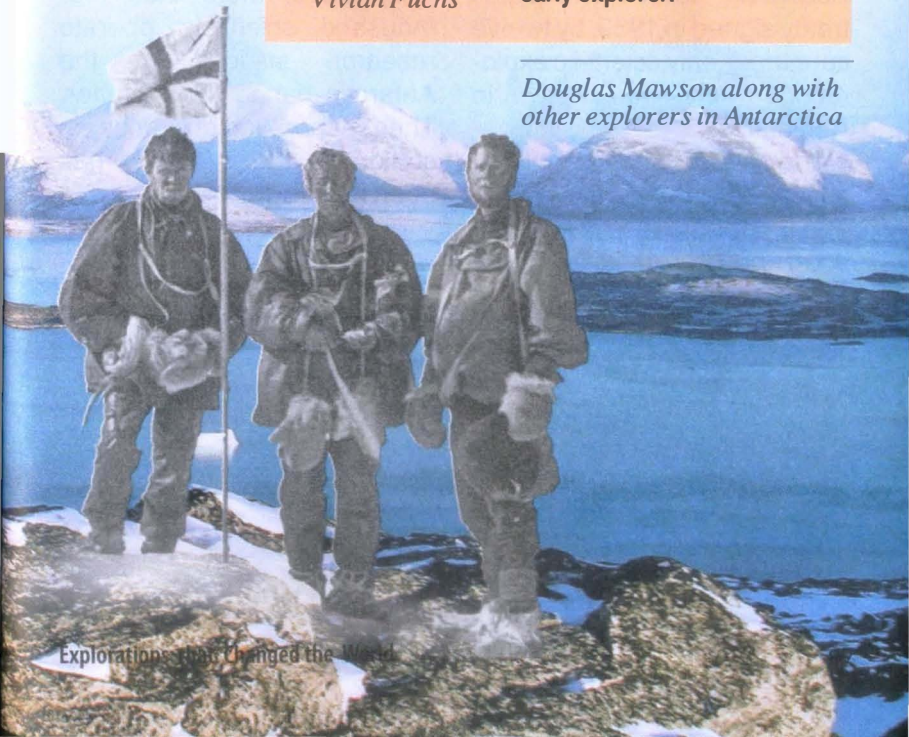


Vivian Fuchs

Success!

Vivian Fuchs became the first man to cross Antarctica from coast to coast, in 1958. His expedition crossed from the Weddel to the Ross Seas. Vivian Fuchs had snow tractors, ice-breakers, radios, heaters, and even a base at the South Pole at his disposal. None of these gadgets, nor the base at the South Pole was available to Earnest Shackleton, the early explorer.

Douglas Mawson along with other explorers in Antarctica





Why did many countries set up scientific stations in Antarctica?

Antarctica is governed by ice; it has no other government. According to the Antarctic treaty signed in 1959, by twelve countries, only scientific explorations are allowed in Antarctica.

The treaty bans military activity and mineral mining. The treaty serves to protect the eco-zone of Antarctica. There

is much to be learned from the continent of Antarctica.

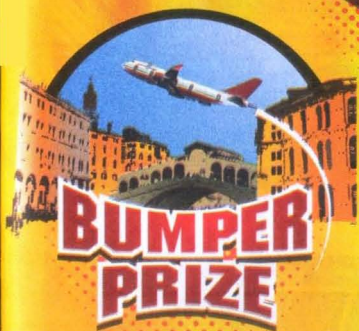
The movement of Earth's gigantic plates, the history and movement of floating ice, astronomical observations, and the ozone layer are all inviting topics of research.

Therefore, more than four thousand scientists operate research stations in the Antarctic during the summer. The second Indian research station in the Antarctic has been named 'Maitri'.

Penguins in Antarctica



FLY TO MILAN WATCH CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WIN PUNTO CARS



trip to Milan for 2 and a chance to
watch a Champions League match



2 Fiat Punto cars

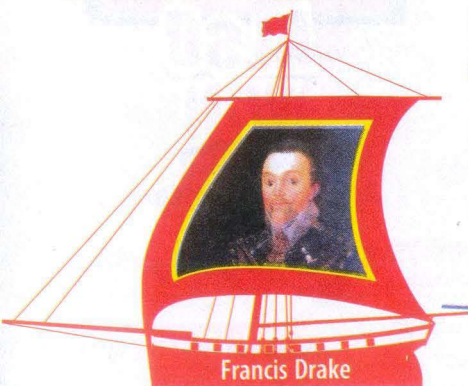
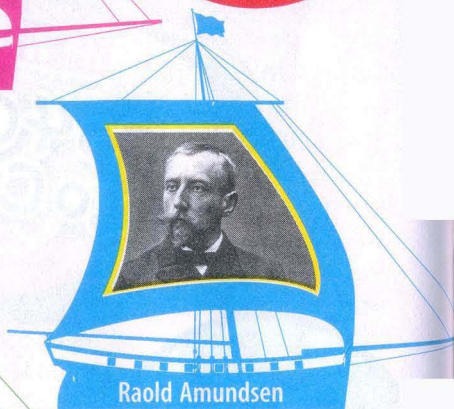
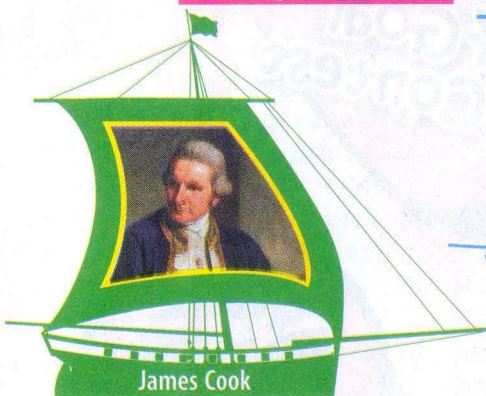
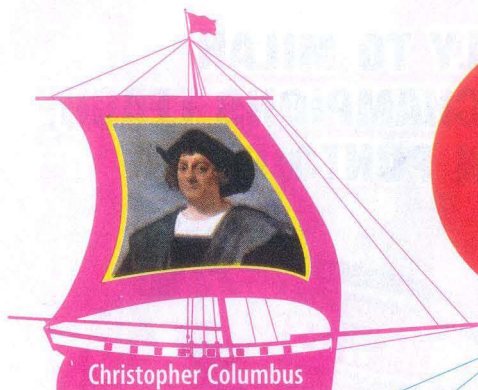
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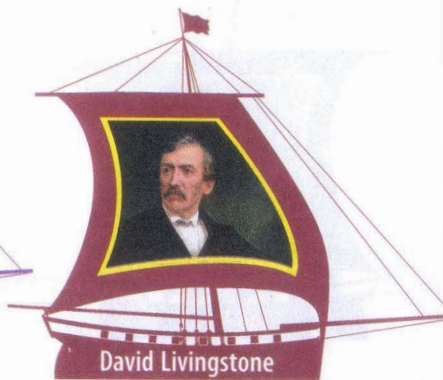
Great Explorers

A Quick Look





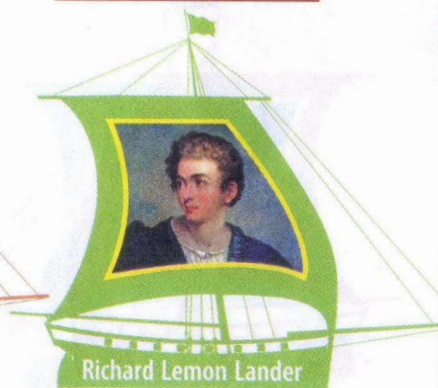
Vasco da Gama



David Livingstone



Mary Kingsley



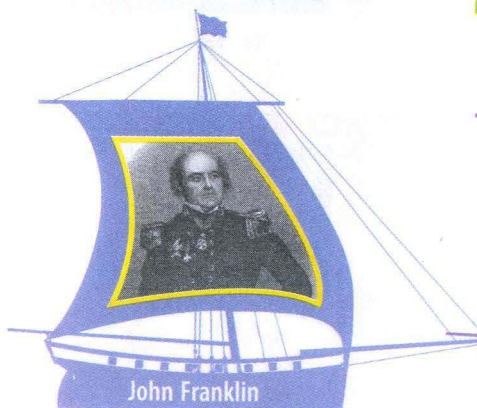
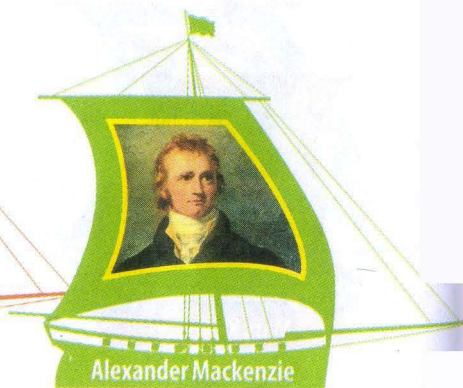
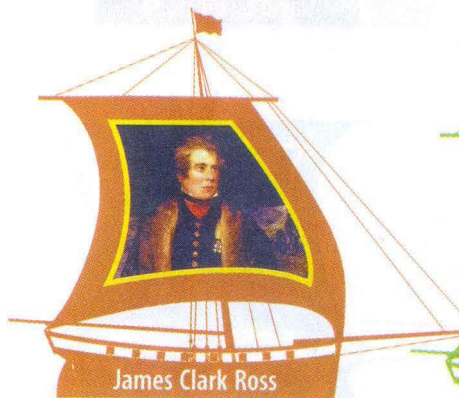
Richard Lemon Lander

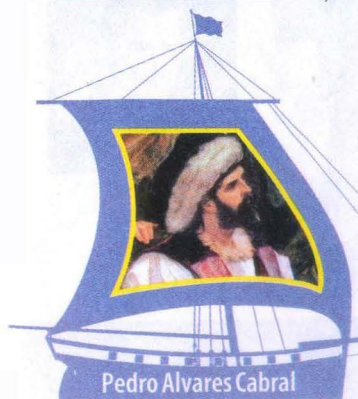
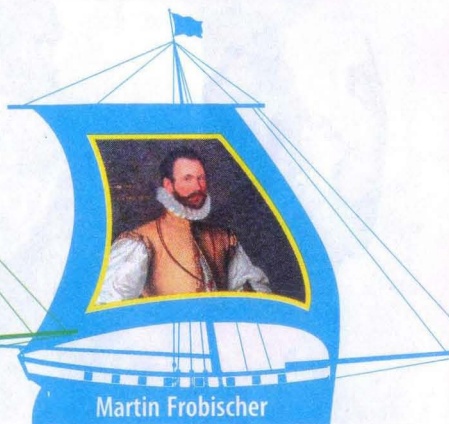
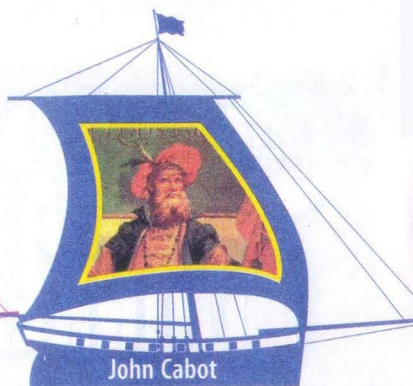
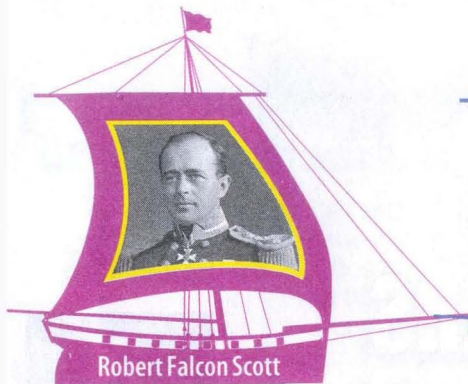


Ferdinand Magellan



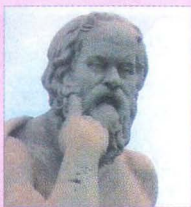
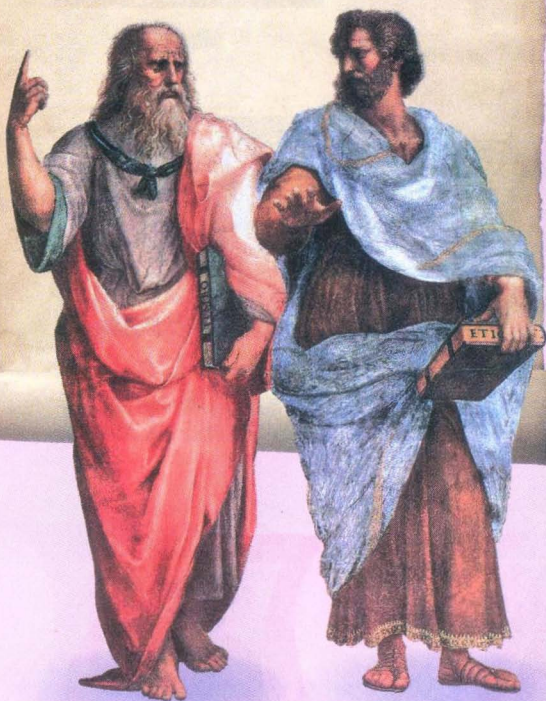
Robert Peary





**NEXT
ISSUE**

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Clarifications & Corrections

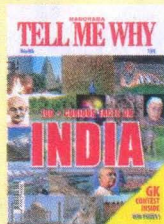
Gautam Biswas, a student from New Delhi points out a mistake in the February issue of Tell Me Why- 100+ Curious Facts on India.

In page 55, it is given that India shares its land borders with five countries - Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma and Bangladesh.

Actually India shares its boundaries with seven countries. The list should include China and Afghanistan, also.

Thankyou, Gautam, for your valuable feedback.

- Editor



1. Hemant

C-1/5, S.B.I. Colony, Gandhidham,
Gujarat.

2. Aryan Sai Swain

Flat-306, Sri Sai Apts, Manovikas Nagar,
Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

3. Subhadeep Sinha

60/6 Brindaban Mullick Lane, Dumurjala
Howrah, West Bengal.

Winners of the **GK Contest- 10, Sports**- held in the March issue of Tell Me Why.

4. Rishita Sinha

Flat No. 1, Can-Bank Flats,
Hasnabad Lane, Santacruz,
Mumbai.

S. Abu Rishan Sarwar

Agia Road, Durga Mandir,
Goalpara, Assam.

GK Contest-10 SPORTS - ANSWERS

1. Virat Kohli 2. Viswanathan Anand 3. Saina Nehwal
4. Gagan Narang 5. Sania Mirza.



HERITAGE SITES

Here's a contest for our readers. Identify the HERITAGE SITES, from the photos given here.

All you need to do is send us an email naming each SITE with the proper number.

(PLEASE GIVE YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS ALSO IN THE E-MAIL) You are also welcome to send your answers by post.

Five winners will be awarded prizes. In case there are more than five correct entries, the winners will be chosen by lot.

Last Date to receive entries:

2014 MAY 25th

Our e-mail address:

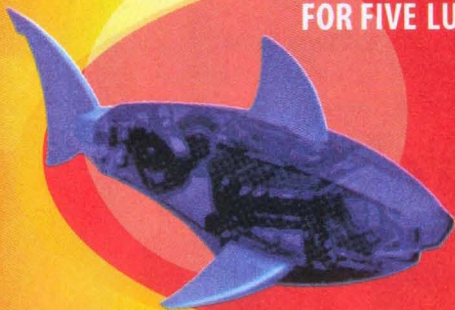
childrensdivision@mmp.in

Please enter

TMW - GK CONTEST - 12

in the subject line of your email.

FOR FIVE LUCKY WINNERS



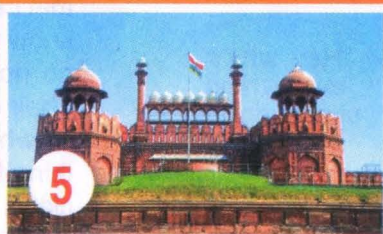
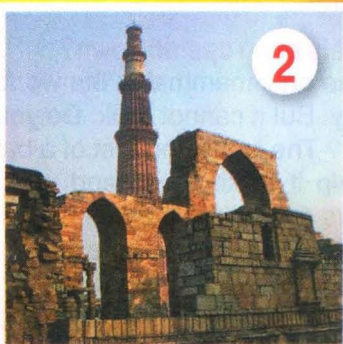
MICRO ROBOT

If you are sending your entry by post, superscribe this on your envelope.

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I Wonder Why?

Question of the Month

Send us your questions

E mail: tellmewhy@mmp.in



Why do bats hang upside down?

Bat is the only mammal in the world that can fly. But it cannot walk. Do you know why? The limbs and feet of a bat do not help it to stand up and walk. Their claws are in the shape of hooks. So when a bat wants to rest, the easiest thing for it is to use their hook-shaped claws to hang upside down. Besides that, it is the most comfortable position for a bat since it helps the bat to glide easily into air - just like a circus artist, from his trapeze!

● **Indhu Thomas**

Hey, why's everything upside down?



MANORAMA TELL ME WHY - EXPLORATIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

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